

Semi-Annual Reports



GRACE
FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH

July 1, 2021 -December 31, 2021

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Elder Board Report

Semi-Annual Reports

July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

It would seem that a new designation of periods of time before and time after a major historic event will join “BC and AD” and other landmark events. That will be “BC and AC”; (B)efore COVID-19 and (A)fter COVID-19. This may seem to be an odd way to start an Elder Board report, but we cannot overestimate the amount of time, worry, discussion and decisions that your Elder Board has experienced dealing with this horrible virus and its effects, real or potential, on our church family. Last summer, the world seemed to be breathing much easier (literally and figuratively) with expectations that the large and growing vaccination rates would overpower the virus and we would see it reduced to a manageable level, if not fade into history. Booster shots became available in August and that really seemed to be the last, necessary step to substantially reduce fears and illness. Then the Delta variant came along...

The Elder Board looked to national, state, and local authorities for guidance on best practices on keeping our worshippers safe but came to the decision that God’s people need the ability to worship, pray and fellowship in person. We decided that worship will not be canceled. Modifications have been made to our services as necessary including fill-in preachers who have preached wonderful messages as they have been led by the Spirit. We are seeing a growing numbers of worshippers in church and that is great. While we believe that attending services in person is the best way to worship, we continue streaming services because our number one desire is to bring the Gospel to whomever and however possible.

With the new fiscal year, the Elder Board sought a renewed vision for Grace Fellowship Church under our new mission statement “Adoring, Obeying and Proclaiming Jesus Together”. An emphasis in our meetings to be led by the Holy Spirit has been instituted. The Elders completed a rather extensive questionnaire in which we compiled individual scores and shared thoughts on what our church, staff and elders are doing well and what needs improvement. The results have been the basis of discussions and direction for Elder Board and church priorities.

During these six months, there have been numerous signs that our church family is more than ready to break out of fears, sheltering and doldrums of the previous one-and-one-half years. These include:

- The start of a new ministry- Caring Companions for widows/adult singles in our congregation.
- The fall kickoff of the Women’s Ministry special events.
- A very successful “Trunk or Treat” outreach event in our parking lot after God cleared the clouds.
- A Saturday morning breakfast meeting of team leaders and those active in various ministries in which leaders reported their groups’ duties, needs and plans. Pastor Kyle encouraged all to focus on the mission statement as they make plans for the future.
- New volunteers are taking part in numerous ministries that make our worship and church family life so rich and fruitful, including discipleship, worship, local missions, hospitality and other outreaches.
- Regular tithes and offerings have far more than matched needs with a surplus that is available to further God’s kingdom.

-The end of a very successful fund raising and match program resulting in reconstruction of the Minnesota parking lot, repairs to sections of sidewalks, replacement of the office steps, replacement of the south air conditioning unit, repairs to the radiator hot water lines, replacement and upgrades to the sanctuary projection system, upgrades to our lighting with LED spotlights and the list goes on. All these repairs and improvements have been paid and we have \$15,000 left over to help pay for maintenance to the parsonage and repairs to church basement footing tile.

Yes, there are many signs that God is good and gracious to Grace Fellowship; that our church family loves Jesus and follows his commands with spirited worship, loving fellowship and acts of love and service to others. Some acts are open and visible, but many are behind the scenes with only God and a few others seeing. “They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love.”

COVID-19 continues to affect our church life despite our determination to return to a normal church life. We have not observed the three-fold communion for some time and people are missing that special service. It is hoped that we can hold this service around Easter. It has also been a long time since we have held the popular, church-wide fellowship meals, most of them held at the Grady farm. It is hoped that we can again gather for fun fellowship events soon.

People have been asking about progress in finding and hiring an associate pastor of family life. This will happen when God determines that the time is right, and it appears that this is not the right time. The search committee communicated this position to multiple seminaries and job sites and have had only a few responses, none of which seemed to the search committee to be a good fit. Pastor Kyle has said that there are many openings for associate pastors and few candidates across the country. It was said from the beginning of the discussion to hire the right candidate; that we are not just to fill a position but answer a need. This will happen when God determines. In the meantime, adjustments have been made to schedules and volunteers have stepped forward to make good things happen in discipleship and worship. For example, David Pick, Dave Lux and Ron Weimer have given spirit-filled messages from the pulpit when Pastor Kyle could not be present.

Grace Fellowship Church has received many amazing blessings during the first six months of the current fiscal year. These blessings would be humbling and inspiring during BC (before COVID) times, but with the church operating in this AC period when a new “normal” is being created day-by-day, the grace of God and generosity of our family is simply mind-blowing. Our worship services seem to get more and more “fragrant” in the Spirit with inspiring music and sermons in which Pastor Kyle draws us closer to Christ and the Gospel. After a recent, wintery Sunday on which we had services when many churches did not, a man said “I do not know who made the decision to have church but thank them. I needed to be in church on Sunday”. It was a “God moment”.

Because of illness, travels and busy schedules, it has been difficult for the Elder Board to meet on a fixed schedule. It meets on an approximate monthly basis, in person or by Zoom. Many discussions are carried out by email. The Elder Board is committed to being open and accessible to our church family. Of course, there are matters that must remain private or are premature to share with the Grace family, but the Elder Board wants to be approached with questions and answers given. We want the church family to be aware of current issues and future plans. It is an honor yet humbling to serve God and Grace Fellowship Church.

God bless you all,

Carl, Jim, Matt, Russ and Dick

Statistical Report
Semi- Annual Report
July 1, 2021– December 31, 2021

- There are 82 total active members for this reporting period
- There are 23 inactive members for this reporting period
- There was one member dropped during this reporting period:
 - Linda Morgan
- There was one Member deceased during this reporting period:
 - Earl Murray
- There were no Baptisms during this reporting period.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Camarata
Office Manager

Annual Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2021
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Members attending: 43

Pastor Kyle opened the annual meeting in prayer at 8:45am.

Carl Meyer started the meeting with a motion from Terry Kuntz to approve the minutes of last year. David Pick seconded. Motion carried.

Recap of the activities of the last year:

1. Challenging year because of COVID.
2. Determining how and when to open the church again and how it was to be done to protect all of the congregation.
3. We were able to have the Bread and Cup five times. We were unable to have 3-fold communion because of safety with COVID.
4. Church approved of the Jordan Baptist Church to use our facilities on Sunday afternoons for their worship service. Their attendance is averaging 90 people and several of the children and youth are attending our children/youth activities.

Parking lot and air conditioning updates:

Jim Grady presented the update and with talking to the city and all the regulations, he feels the best for us at this time is to asphalt and not cement. The cost is significantly lower than was presented last time because of the asphalt. The bid of approximately totals \$70,000. This includes: asphalt with additional ½" thickness, curb stops (35 @ \$44), stripping the parking lots, surveying, some hidden cost which always happens, repairing the steps and sidewalks and widening the drives to the Williston parking lot and replacing the air conditioning on the North side. We are able to put the new air conditioning on the old spot so that saves us a lot of money.

Some of the questions asked:

What is the life span of the asphalt? In 4-5 years we will have to reseal and strip the parking lot. We hope that if maintain properly it should last at least 15 years if not more.

What is the savings by using asphalt vs cement? We will be saving between \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Is the elder board unified in using asphalt and replacing the air conditioning? Whenever the elder board bring items to the congregation it is always unified.

Can we add more parking to the Williston lot? We do not own the house that is connected to the parking lot but if it ever comes up for sale we would be interested in purchasing. The point section is owned by the city. We maintain it for them.

Russ Davis shared that there has been a matching gift of \$30,000 for the above projects and that there is already \$14,000 pledge for these projects. We ask that if you are willing to pledge for the parking lot/air conditioner that it be turned in on or before October 1, 2021. Reminder that this would be over and above your normal tithe.

Associate Pastor:

Pastor Kyle shared the biblical reasons that are needed for change in how we are teaching our children and youth. The children and youth are facing some major problems with social media etc.

Some of the changes needed are:

1. Believe that the scriptures are true.
2. Kids have challenges and we need to prepare them for these challenges in our home and churches.
3. Reform our church to be more biblical.
4. Integrate our ministries so that we have close relationships with grandparents, parents and the church family.

Pastor Kyle shared several scripture passages for us so that we will be a more biblical family.

A search team has been started. The people who have already been contacted and have said they would participate are: Pastor Kyle and Esly, Matthew and Athena, Elaine Clark and Russ Davis. There will be more added. Would like at least 8 on the team.

Pastor Kyle can not do it all to have a successful children/youth ministry.

What would the salary be? Approx. \$45,000/year including the benefits. We have been making a monthly payment for our mortgage and with the savings of the parking lot we should be able to financially support this position as well as each of us increasing our tithe \$5/week.

The vote is not to add this position but for us to begin the search.

Financial update:

We ended our fiscal year in the black by \$27,031. We were given two budgets this year. One without adding an associate pastor and one with an associate pastor. The difference between the two is about \$5.00 per week. The budget is in the packet so if you have any questions, please contact Russ Davis and he will gladly explain the two.

New Elder:

The elder board have asked Matthew Grady to become an elder for a 3-year term and he has said yes. Elders are excited to have a young person on the board because they are getting a little older!!!

The ballots were handed out and turned in after each subject.

Don Penn made the motion to accept all that was discussed and the meeting to be adjourned. 2nd by Judy Banes. Motion carried.

The ballots were counted and the outcome for all was a YES!!

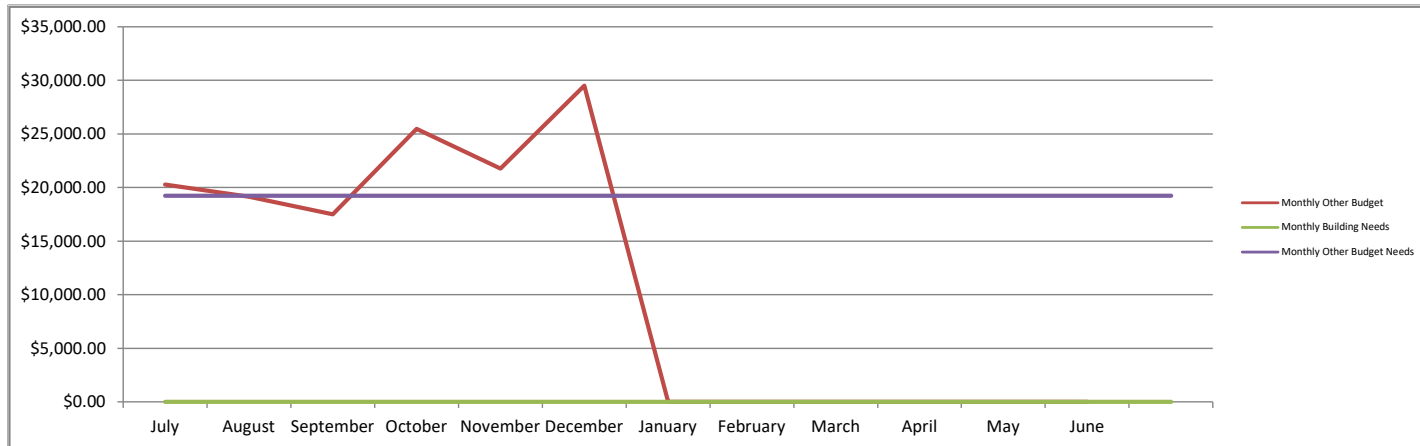
Recording Secretary,

Jeanette Grady

GRACE FELLOWSHIP RECAPS JULY 1, 2021 - DECEMBER 31, 2021

Weekly	Goal	Other General Funds	Total General Funds	Designated Offerings	Total Offering
July		\$20,272.36	\$20,272.36	\$2,039.20	\$22,311.56
August		\$19,153.00	\$19,153.00	\$11,890.20	\$31,043.20
September		\$17,504.00	\$17,504.00	\$6,627.20	\$24,131.20
October		\$25,474.49	\$25,474.49	\$5,759.00	\$31,233.49
November		\$21,758.00	\$21,758.00	\$31,975.00	\$53,733.00
December		\$29,523.00	\$29,523.00	\$9,550.00	\$39,073.00
January		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
February		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
March		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
April		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
May		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
June		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
		\$133,684.85		\$201,525.45	

YTD	Budget	YTD	Actual	YTD Dif FmBudget	\$	YTD Dif % FmBudget
	\$17,764.54		\$20,272.36		\$2,507.82	14.12%
	\$39,970.21		\$39,425.36		-\$544.85	-1.36%
	\$57,734.75		\$56,929.36		-\$805.39	-1.39%
	\$79,940.42		\$82,403.85		\$2,463.43	3.08%
	\$97,704.96		\$104,161.85		\$6,456.89	6.61%
	\$115,469.50		\$133,684.85		\$18,215.35	15.78%
	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	0.00%
	\$155,439.71		\$167,894.85		\$12,455.14	8.01%
	\$173,204.25		\$167,894.85		-\$5,309.40	-3.07%
	\$190,968.79		\$167,894.85		-\$23,073.94	-12.08%
	\$213,174.46		\$167,894.85		-\$45,279.61	-19.56%
	\$230,939.00		\$167,894.85		-\$63,044.15	-27.30%



Treasurer's Report
Semi-Annual Reports
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Financial Summary:

As of December 31, we have \$149,414 in our Checking and savings accounts. Of that total, \$93,818 is at Community Bank in Waterloo and \$55,596 is at GBIF in Winona Lake, Indiana. All bills are paid and our liabilities balance is \$48,905. (See the Balance Sheet Report)

(From our P & L Budget Report) Our Budget for the first half of our fiscal year was \$115,466. We actually took in \$132,149 or \$16,683 more than budget.

Our budgeted expenses for the same period were \$103,983 which is \$13,055 LESS than budget so at 6 months we have received \$29,739 more than we have spent. Praise the Lord!

Not only have we given to our general budget more than projected but we also completed our matching funds project, all in the same year! Thank you for your faithful and sacrificial giving during these COVID times.

Matching Fund Project

At the start of July 1, we had already raised \$14,022. Between July 1 and Dec 31 we received \$59,329. This allowed us to not only meet our goal of \$75,281 but surpassed it by \$1,070!

This money allowed us to pay for the complete Minnesota parking lot project, The Air conditioner and wiring on the south side of the church, , new steps to the office, removal of walnut trees from our Williston parking lot and 4 sanctuary spot lights. These expenses totaled \$59,556. That leaves us with a balance of \$16,795 which will be used for needed repairs and appliances in the parsonage and some foundation work under the Pastors office.

Other Notables:

This fall Pastor Kyle purchased a home so moved out of the parsonage so at this time we are receiving no income from the parsonage.

We changed insurance companies this past fall. Our monthly rates dropped from \$1,138 with Brotherhood Mutual to \$844 with Grinnell Mutual.

In October Russ Davis stepped down from the Treasurer's position and transferred the responsibility to Brad Morris.

As we look at this past ½ year from a financial perspective we are doing VERY WELL but when we take a closer look we see that the majority of our expenses were to fix and update our building. Our budget was not met and that means that most of our ministry goals were not met. We need to be more "On Purpose" about doing ministry. Reaching the lost. Equipping the saints. Let's pray that the 2nd half of our fiscal year sees us more actively working and reaping Heavenly rewards that honor our Lord.

Respectfully Submitted

Brad Morris, Treasurer

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
GFC P&L Actual vrs Budget - MO & YTD Condensed
July through December 2021

	<u>Jul - Dec 21</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Bu...</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Dec 21</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
40000 · CONTRIBUTIONS	132,149.85	115,466.00	16,683.85	114.4%	132,149.85
Total Income	132,149.85	115,466.00	16,683.85	114.4%	132,149.85
Gross Profit	132,149.85	115,466.00	16,683.85	114.4%	132,149.85
Expense					
6999 · Uncategorized Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
72000 · BUSINESS TEAM	77,829.01	82,032.00	(4,202.99)	94.9%	77,829.01
92899 · CARE MINISTRY	553.12	1,620.00	(1,066.88)	34.1%	553.12
94000 · COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY	71.88	378.00	(306.12)	19.0%	71.88
94500 · MISSIONS - GLOBAL	18,656.27	20,933.00	(2,276.73)	89.1%	18,656.27
94840 · MISSIONS - LOCAL	2,785.67	4,010.00	(1,224.33)	69.5%	2,785.67
95000 · CORPORATE WORSHIP	1,453.11	2,254.00	(800.89)	64.5%	1,453.11
95700 · DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY	2,634.11	5,812.00	(3,177.89)	45.3%	2,634.11
Total Expense	103,983.17	117,039.00	(13,055.83)	88.8%	103,983.17
Net Ordinary Income	28,166.68	(1,573.00)	29,739.68	(1,790.6)%	28,166.68
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income					
40110 · PARSONAGE RENT	1,125.00	900.00	225.00	125.0%	1,125.00
40120 · CHURCH USE FEE	350.00	0.00	350.00	100.0%	350.00
40200 · MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
40210 · NON-BUDGETED	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
41800 · INTEREST INVESTMENTS	418.07	360.00	58.07	116.1%	418.07
Total Other Income	1,893.07	1,260.00	633.07	150.2%	1,893.07
Other Expense					
96510 · NON-BUDGET APPROVED EXPENS...	2,791.99	0.00	2,791.99	100.0%	2,791.99
96540 · MISC NON-BUDGET EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
Total Other Expense	2,791.99	0.00	2,791.99	100.0%	2,791.99
Net Other Income	(898.92)	1,260.00	(2,158.92)	(71.3)%	(898.92)
Net Income	27,267.76	(313.00)	27,580.76	(8,711.7)%	27,267.76

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
GFC P&L Actual vrs Budget - MO & YTD Condensed
July through December 2021

	YTD Budget	\$ Over Bu...	% of Budget	Annual Bu...
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
40000 · CONTRIBUTIONS	115,466.00	16,683.85	114.4%	230,932.00
Total Income	115,466.00	16,683.85	114.4%	230,932.00
Gross Profit	115,466.00	16,683.85	114.4%	230,932.00
Expense				
6999 · Uncategorized Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
72000 · BUSINESS TEAM	82,032.00	(4,202.99)	94.9%	163,814.00
92899 · CARE MINISTRY	1,620.00	(1,066.88)	34.1%	3,036.00
94000 · COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY	378.00	(306.12)	19.0%	756.00
94500 · MISSIONS - GLOBAL	20,933.00	(2,276.73)	89.1%	40,362.00
94840 · MISSIONS - LOCAL	4,010.00	(1,224.33)	69.5%	7,020.00
95000 · CORPORATE WORSHIP	2,254.00	(800.89)	64.5%	3,508.00
95700 · DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY	5,812.00	(3,177.89)	45.3%	12,432.00
Total Expense	117,039.00	(13,055.83)	88.8%	230,928.00
Net Ordinary Income	(1,573.00)	29,739.68	(1,790.6)%	4.00
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income				
40110 · PARSONAGE RENT	900.00	225.00	125.0%	900.00
40120 · CHURCH USE FEE	0.00	350.00	100.0%	0.00
40200 · MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
40210 · NON-BUDGETED	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
41800 · INTEREST INVESTMENTS	360.00	58.07	116.1%	720.00
Total Other Income	1,260.00	633.07	150.2%	1,620.00
Other Expense				
96510 · NON-BUDGET APPROVED EXPENS...	0.00	2,791.99	100.0%	0.00
96540 · MISC NON-BUDGET EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00	2,791.99	100.0%	0.00
Net Other Income	1,260.00	(2,158.92)	(71.3)%	1,620.00
Net Income	(313.00)	27,580.76	(8,711.7)%	1,624.00

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Balance Sheet (Expanded)

As of December 31, 2021

	Dec 31, 21
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
11050 · COMMUNITY NATIONAL	70,104.02
11200 · GBIF - 8202 SAVINGS	23,714.09
11210 · COMMUNITY SAVINGS	32,250.39
11300 · GBIF-8203 SCHOLARSHIP	23,346.06
Total Checking/Savings	149,414.56
Total Current Assets	149,414.56
Fixed Assets	
15300 · BUILDING IMPROVMENTS	786,327.43
Total Fixed Assets	786,327.43
TOTAL ASSETS	935,741.99
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
27000 · FLOWTHROUGH	
24780 · SS PROJECTS	
24785 · SS MISSIONARY - PATTONS	65.00
24790 · SS WATER FOR GOOD	20.00
Total 24780 · SS PROJECTS	85.00
27299 · GLOBAL MISSIONS RESERVED FUNDS	
27300 · GO TEAM	1,774.80
Total 27299 · GLOBAL MISSIONS RESERVED FUNDS	1,774.80
27400 · MEMORIAL FUND	1,395.00
27455 · HEART TO HOME	25.00
27460 · WOMEN'S MINISTRY	
27461 · WOMENS SPECIAL USE-JJ Memorial	2,025.00
27460 · WOMEN'S MINISTRY - Other	462.59
Total 27460 · WOMEN'S MINISTRY	2,487.59
27470 · SPECIAL MISSIONS	
24791 · GIDEONS	100.00
Total 27470 · SPECIAL MISSIONS	100.00
27480 · SPECIAL PROJECTS	
27482 · PARKING LOT PROJECT	15,548.01
Total 27480 · SPECIAL PROJECTS	15,548.01
27490 · YOUTH RESERVED FUNDS	
28370 · MOMENTUM	2,567.74
28375 · YOUTH MISSIONS TRIP 2022	1,660.82
Total 27490 · YOUTH RESERVED FUNDS	4,228.56
28100 · MIKE CHRISTIAN	100.00
28300 · SAM DANFORTH	90.00
Total 27000 · FLOWTHROUGH	25,833.96

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Balance Sheet (Expanded)
 As of December 31, 2021

	Dec 31, 21
27350 · GRACE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP	23,071.34
Total Other Current Liabilities	48,905.30
Total Current Liabilities	48,905.30
Total Liabilities	48,905.30
Equity	
30010 · Retained Earnings	610,639.94
39004 · CONGREGATIONAL BUILDING INVEST	248,928.99
Net Income	27,267.76
Total Equity	886,836.69
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	935,741.99

Business Team Report

Semi-Annual Reports
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Finances: Grace Fellowship Church remains in solid financial condition. See the Treasurers report for assets and liabilities.

Minnesota parking lot and concrete improvements: The Minnesota parking lot was completely redone and it looks fantastic! Many barriers were strategically placed around the perimeter to deter trucks from being in the lot. The entrance on the Minnesota side was enlarged. The lines were painted courtesy of Dean Weikert. The sidewalk on the Minnesota side closest to the church was repaired as well. We also have new steps to the office. We have been wanting to complete these for quite some time and it is nice to see that happen. Special thanks to Jim Grady for directing this project. This along with the south side air conditioner replacement were covered financially by a matching fund of \$30,000 (\$60,000 total).

South side air conditioner replacement: A new unit was installed this fall by Young's Plumbing & Heating. In addition, Young's repaired the water heating system, replacing several valves. The funds were again covered with the matching fund. Special thanks to Dick Jensen for coordinating all the details of this project.

Removal of two large walnut trees: Two rather bothersome walnut trees were removed from the side of the Williston parking lot. The trees would frequently lose limbs in addition to dropping walnuts that needed cleaned up. This was done for a cost of \$1900.00. Rick Johnson made the contacts for this.

Servant Keeper Membership and Financials Program: This program was purchased to replace a program that we had been using for the past fifteen years. The older system required many patches. This will keep the records in one place.

Washing & waxing floors: The large and small fellowship halls were cleaned and waxed. It had been some time since they had been done. The nursery and welcome center carpets were cleaned as well. Thanks to Jean Camarata for making those arrangements.

Stage spotlight replacement: Eight old stage spotlights were replaced with energy saving LED spot lights.

Insurance carrier: We changed insurance carrier to Black Hawk Grinnell Insurance. This results in a savings of \$300.00 per month or approximately \$3,600.00 per year.

Business Team members for 2021 – 2022: Judy Banes, Jean Davis, Russ Davis, Dick Jensen, Rick Johnson, Brent Johnson, Jeff Kronschnabel, Jerry Langham, Brad Morris, Jim Murray, and Dan Rousselow.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Murray, Chair

Care Team Report
Semi-Annual Reports
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

The Care Team would like to take this moment to thank each and every one of you for your support of Grace Fellowship this past year. While it has been another year of challenges, we can see God is at work.

As things settle down a little bit, we hope to get our Hospitality Teams, which are Greeters, Ushers and Coffee Servers, up and running at full strength. The previous months, actually years, have caused a lot of flux in those serving in this capacity. If you can help in ANY of the areas, let one of the Care Team know. We have had some faithful ‘junior’ members of our congregation come forward and help us in this area. We can use more of all ages. It is a great chance for **ALL** to serve.

The current concern about health has prompted suspension of our normal Three-Fold Communion services for the near future. We have, however, conducted Bread and Cup services during the morning service. We did the Bread and Cup on August 8, October 10, and November 21, 2021 mornings. The Care Team enjoys assisting and ministering during these services. It is yet another way to serve the Lord and our fellow believers. We look forward to helping in this way.

We were able to provide some help funding, as well as providing some transportation, for the Caring Companions Connecting group. This was for study materials and delivery of some of their project’s work this fall. It was a great chance to help where God was at work.

The Care Team is extremely grateful to all who have provided meals to those who have been laid up with illness or health issues over the past many months. This is another **TREMENDOUS** ministry **you** can be involved in (and you don’t have to even be able to cook)! Let our coordinator Sally Kuntz, or any of the Care Team know if you would like to help with this important serving ministry by making or buying a meal. Thanks for your coordinating work on this Sally.

As things begin to return to ‘normal’, we look forward to continued work and service alongside each of you here at Grace Fellowship in the months ahead. Thanks to each of you for your continued support.

The Care Team

Carl and Linda Meyer, Jim and Jeanette Grady, Don and Diane McGriff, Scott and Beth Hottle

Caring Companions Ministry Report

Semi-Annual Reports

July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

It seems strange to be submitting a semi-annual report when this ministry was just started in September and not even had a year to its name, but this provides us a good time to review what we have been able to do.

It had long been on the heart of Cindy Lear and Vivian Weimer to recognize and minister in some way to the growing number of widows/adult singles in our congregation. After praying faithfully for God's direction to this desire we reached out to invite a Sunday morning class opportunity for this group in our congregation. We began on Sunday, October 24 and continued meeting through December 12 on Sunday morning with 8-10 faithful attendees.

We were able to provide free to our church/class, and use the book, *Free to Lean: Making peace with your Lopsided Life* by Jocelyn Falck Green. This proved to be pertinent to the lives of those who no longer fit into the 'couple' or nuclear family model and were privileged to have the author speak to our class and do a book signing at the end of October. Our class time focus has been to mutually support one another with scripture, prayer and discussion, driven by the needs expressed within the class rather than the agenda of the leaders.

Besides the priority of supporting, encouraging and ministering to each other's needs, we desire to provide service opportunities and minister to our larger church family and community.

In November, we had a pasta freezer meal workday where we made homemade pasta freezer dishes for over 20 adult singles, widows/widowers. Care Commission members, Diane and Don McGriff were able to get in on the blessings delivering these meals to those who are not mobile or have not made it back to in-person services yet.

Also, with the financial help of the Care Commission, we were able to gift each person in the class with the book, *Grieving the Loss of a Loved One, A Devotional of Comfort as You Mourn* by Kathe Wunnenberg. We continue to hear from those using it how it has blessed their lives.

During the winter months it is our desire to meet periodically for social interaction. Judy Banes opened her home in December for a Christmas brunch, and we hope to have a Timeout for Tea at The Tea Cellar in February with the class resuming its Sunday morning meeting time in March.

We continue to look for ways to serve each other as well as our community and are open to ideas anyone might have to reach out to all and especially those who might be hurting.

Cindy Lear and Vivian Weimer

Children's Ministry Report

Semi-Annual Reports

July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Nursery - meet weekly year round

- The toddler nursery is currently the only nursery staffed
- Volunteers serve once a month on a rotation basis: Amy Blakesley, Addison Grady, Jeff & Sheri Lesh, Rita Kehoe, Ivy Weber, Derek & Gabby Skiles and Matthew & Athena Grady

Sunday School - meet weekly year round

- Summer Sunday School was done in a VBS type format with crafts and music. It was lead by Vivian Weimer and Amy Blakesley. We had many helping make this possible.
- Beginning in September, classes were split up into three age groups and all lessons are taught using Lifeway: Bible Studies for Life curriculum
 - Pre-K to K – Rotation of Matthew & Athena Grady, Derek & Gabby Skiles, Esly Dwyer, Judy Christian and Lucas Grady as a youth helper.
 - 1st - 3rd – April Schwartz
 - 4th - 6th - Joyce Helfer and Ivy Weber

Children's Church - have not met since March 2020 due to COVID as well as no need for it at this time.

Written by Athena Grady

Global Ministry Report
Semi-Annual Reports
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

In July we shared a video from the Eagle Commission.

In August we raised funds for the family of Nathan Foltz (Mike & Judy Christian's grandson) who was in an accident.

This fall Jon & Chontelle Vellacott were visiting and so Jon shared with us how their ministry with CRU is going. Sam & Anna Danforth were also able to share with us an update about Titus Auto in South Africa.

On October 31st we shared a video from Encompass for Charis Celebration Sunday and shared the opportunity for all to be involved in the Charis Prayer Walk for the month of November. Jean printed this for any who requested them.

In December Mike & Judy Christian shared with us a video that CRU made featuring Mike as well as they shared about their upcoming trip to Thailand.

We also once again supported the Gideons International and their Bibles for Jesus program. We were able to donate 223 Bibles with the funds given.

COVID has definitely still affected having missionaries visit but we are hopeful that this will change for the upcoming year.

Written by Athena Grady

Global Missions Team Members:

Athena Grady - Chair

Diane McGriff, Don McGriff, April Schwartz - Team Members

Jim Grady - Elder Rep

Love Inc., Kitchen Essentials Ministry Report

Semi-Annual Reports

July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Beginning late summer of 2021 new management at the Church took over for Love Inc, an organization that consists of many Churches in the area providing essential needs for those that are starting over in life, for many different reasons.

Grace Fellowship supplies basic kitchen supplies ranging from silver ware to microwaves. The team consists of Deb Johnson, Esly Dwyer (on maternity leave at present), Louise Langham and Rae Jean Jeffries.

Each week we receive a list from Love Inc of the client's names and their needs (average 3-4 each week). We assemble boxes with the kitchen items based on how many are in the family and what their specific requests are. The boxes are picked up here at Grace or the boxes are delivered to the client's home by Love Inc employees. We add a small Bible and a track in each order and if the client comes here to pick up their box(s) Pastor Kyle is there to talk to them, pray with them, and invite them to come if they have no home church.

We accept and appreciate all the donations of new or gently used kitchen supplies or monetary donations. It's a very rewarding and humbling job to do.

Submitted by Rae Jean Jeffries.

Men's Ministry Report
Semi-Annual Reports
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Men's ministry at church has taken on a different look the last few years. We usually think of Men's ministry as annual or quarterly events that bring the men together for encouragement, accountability, and fellowship. COVID HAS really put a damper on these types of gatherings. Ministry is still happening but in smaller groups and less formal settings.

The most formal gathering we have is our weekly Men's breakfast. Every Wednesday morning, rain or shine, cold or warm, COVID or no COVID. Between 6 and 14 of our men meet at Perkins at 6:30 am. We have breakfast and during that time identify and sometimes even solve some of the world's problems. We also take 45-60 min to share a devotion and talk about it and conclude by praying for needs of the men and our church.

Men's ministry is not only defined by the events but also includes personal service to the church and attenders in the form of helping to set up bleachers for the choir or tables for women's ministry events. Moving furniture before cleaning floors. Putting up Christmas decorations. We get together to landscape the outside of the building by pastor's office. It also includes taking personal pride to caring for the church building by doing things around the church like mowing or snow blowing, raking, and trimming. Our men will see a need and take care of it personally or share it with someone or several others and then "Get it done"! We are working together, encouraging each other, enjoying fellowship. We are brothers..... in Christ.

We look forward to the time we can once again sponsor events for our men and our church. It's not too far away but until then we are encouraged by the working of the Spirit within our men at Grace Fellowship.

Partners In Education (Lowell Elementary) Report

Semi-Annual Reports

July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Both the school roof collapse in February 2019 and the Covid 19 pandemic of 2020 and 2021 affected our partnership with Lowell Elementary. But things are improving!

After nearly three years of classes in a Cedar Falls location, the students and staff are back across the street from Grace Fellowship! Over Winter Break carpeting, furniture, library books, and hundreds of cartons of classroom supplies were moved to the brand-new building! The students were able to walk into their new school on January 3rd. They adjusted quickly, and of course the adults did, too. There will be an open house for the public tentatively set for March 24. Everyone from GFC should try to go – especially if you taught there or attended as a child!

Once again, we were able to provide the teachers and other staff members with a pizza lunch the day before school started. This coming August we will be able to have them come to the church for a more complete meal and perhaps some entertainment. At this time, we donate school supplies and backpacks for the students as well as copy paper and other items for the teachers and office personnel.

It took a while to obtain pen pal journals. There was no problem getting GFC folks signed up to be their writing buddies! This year we have the fourth grade instead of second. Many of the kids are behind grade level in their writing skills, mainly due to the pandemic. Others are more fluent in a different language. Most enjoy having someone to write to. Last year many of us were able to meet our pals near the end of the school year. That will be easier now that they can walk down the street to GFC! We will provide treats and entertainment. We plan to have gifts for each to open.

We did not do Christmas gifts this year, but each child gets a bag of small items and snacks during their birthday month. We include summer birthdays also.

Another heart-warming activity is Adopt-A-Family at Christmas. This year our family members were recent immigrants from Micronesia. The mother works nights at Panera, two little ones attend Elementary School, and the dad has some serious health problems. The 15-year-old girl was waiting for papers from Hawai'i, where they had lived since fleeing Micronesia. This deserving family was grateful for the laundry supplies, school clothes, toys, and many other gifts.

All of Lowell's partners are asked to collect HyVee receipts, Box Tops, and Milk Moola.

New this year are Cougar Carts prizes. Students receive coupons for exemplary behavior. Many of us are cleaning out drawers, cupboards, and closets and donating puzzles, games, toys, decorative items, even advertising pens and pencils that are clean and in good shape. The students often choose something that they can give a family member, not keep for themselves!

During the next six months I will continue to attend monthly meetings with (some of) the other Partners. Anyone is welcome to go with me.

We will provide a special treat for Shining Stars (12 students) in April and in May during their regular lunch period.

We will also provide healthy snacks for 3rd through 5th graders while they take ISAP (state) tests in April.

Lowell School is grateful for all the winter clothing. They are well-equipped for the rest of this winter. There is always a need for school-appropriate clothes sizes 4 through 18.

Please continue for pray. 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 part of our Jerusalem mission.

Joyce Helfer,
PIE Coordinator

Women's Ministry Report
Semi-Annual Reports
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

After a long break due to Covid, The Women's Ministry Team decided Oct 2021 to have our first event. On a Saturday morning 21 ladies gathered at the church for a light brunch prepared by the team, which was very good! Jean Davis opened with prayer and shared a story from her youth about how she loved fall, which was quite entertaining. Connie Mullins led those that wanted to into a fall craft. When all the crafts were done, Becky and Rae Jean started the bingo game which everyone always enjoys. This year everyone left with a prize. It was a great success!!

In December we held our second event. Forty women attended our "Why a Donkey?" brunch. After the opening welcome and prayer, we have a lovely brunch catered by Hy-Vee. We incorporated a couple young ladies to assist with serving and they did a great job.

There were games on the table and answers revealed before it was over. Becky wrote and read the devotion, "Why a Donkey." It was truly a beautiful and touching devotional. We had a couple door prizes.

We closed with singing Christmas carols.

Submitted by Rae Jean Jeffries.

Worship Leadership Team Report

Semi-Annual Reports

July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

As the pandemic has changed our personal lives, so too, has it changed our worship lives. We are fortunate to be able to stay strong in the worship team's weekly responsibilities but have had to do many "work arounds" in terms of personnel and responsibilities.

The audio-visual team is now a separate entity so we will not report on any of their happenings. The worship leadership team now consists of Pastor Kyle, and Roger and Cindy Lear. They work together collaboratively selecting songs, worship order and slide preparation for each Sunday, Roger organizing worship practice and communicating with singers and instrumentalists, and Cindy planning and preparing weekly preludes and offertory specials.

We were so blessed and fortunate to have a good response to a Christmas choir that practiced diligently to present a wonderful cantata, *Song of Joy* to the residents of Friendship Village on December 12. The attendance maxed out the space (and then some!) and those who participated gained as much blessing as those listening. Unfortunately, the Elder Board made a decision to cancel the morning worship service presentation on December 19 and there was no good opportunity to reschedule. We will hope and pray for the best next holiday season in presenting this special service.

We are always looking to add people to the worship teams and special music. If you know of someone (or perhaps YOU) who could lend your voice and/or talents to encourage and edify the saints, please let us know.

Thanks for your continued prayers and support of the worship ministry. It is our sincere desire to lift high the name of Jesus and draw the entire congregation into a meaningful worship experience each and every Sunday. Please join with us in this effort.

To the Praise of His Glorious Name,

Worship Leadership Team

Discipleship, Youth and Lead Pastor Reports

Semi-Annual Reports

July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Discipleship – Since last July, our goal for discipleship has been to *keep it going!* Our greatest challenge during this time has been continuity due to continued COVID-19 illness within and without our congregation. But by God's grace, we have continued to have weekly Sunday School classes that have been greatly blessed. We have embarked studies on the Gospel itself, and now on Conversion, and we will finish with Evangelism by the end of this semester. By God's grace we have enjoyed sweet fellowship and discussion over God's Word during our Sunday School hour. We have also seen God working in the beginning of a widows Bible Study led by Cindy Lear and Vivian Weimer. Women's Bible Study has continued as well with Elaine Clark joining Merrill-Lee Pick in co-leading. God has been growing us in many ways, and we are so privileged and blessed to have so much teaching available to us.

Youth – Since last July, the youth have been busy! We had a very blessed time at Momentum on the Road (a shortened version of Momentum Youth Conference), where we enjoyed great teaching, fun fellowship, and a quick stop for pizza in Chicago on the way! We were so blessed to bring 10 young men and women along with us and we are looking forward to a full sized Momentum Youth Conference at Indiana Wesleyan University this summer. We have continued to meet weekly, and we even kicked off our year with an outdoor event at the new Dwyer Residence! The Youth also led a night of volunteering at the Eastern Iowa Food Bank where we packed bags of food to be distributed in other small towns in NE Iowa, and we were blessed to have several adults from the congregation there with us serving as well. Our emphasis in teaching has been to understand the importance of sound doctrine answering the question *why is biblical theology so important?* We have used this topic to see what Scripture says about different areas of life as a disciple of Christ and how vital a Scriptural understanding of those topics directly effects our walk with Christ.

Lead Pastor – Three words define these past months: God is good. He is indeed good in so many ways. We have marched our way through the first two chapters of the book of Acts giving us a glimpse of the Spirit-filled early church. We have also walked through a wonderful Christmas season, enjoying the riches of Jesus' incarnation. And beyond this, our Sunday schools and youth have been hearing God's word every single week. As the way we have dealt with COVID has changed, by God's grace, I have been able to visit more and more people personally this past half a year. We have also done all of this in the midst of great division and difficulty in our nation and within the evangelical church in the United States. By God's immeasurable grace, our church has been shielded from this division and we are more united than ever; ready to continue to proclaim the good news of Christ to the nations.