

2016 Church Office Report

Births

Jan 5	Brantley Dale Beiler, son of Mervin & Jeneva Beiler
Jan 6	Hazel Joy Holt, daughter of Barry & Becca Holt
May 21	Malachi James, son of Toby & Melissa Zook
July 9	Bryce Douglas, son of Doug & Rachel Smoker
July 26	Noelle Grace, daughter of Troy & Dani Smoker
Sept 22	Aviana Matthews, daughter of Doug & Rochelle Stoltzfus
Oct 5	Caleb Albert & Carina Grace, son/daughter of Ben & Mo Pongracz

Deaths

January 5	Jeneva Beiler
January 20	Brantley Beiler
February 12	Evelyn Hershey
March 12	Mary Neff
October 4	Elverta Denlinger

Marriages

May 14	Matt Pierce & Michele Kerns
May 28	Connor Beiler & Kristy King
June 25	Andrew Beiler & Beka Stoltzfus
July 16	Elvin Engel & Nancy Keefer
September 24	Andy Neff & Heather Lutz

Members Received

January 31	Katie Beiler
May 29	Danielle Smoker

Average Church Attendance for 2016 - 218

Highest Attendance - 282

Lowest Attendance - 168

Notes of Interest

January 10 - Appreciation Breakfast

January 22-23 - Women's Winter Retreat at Kenbrook Bible Camp, "Your Story Matters" was the focus of the two day retreat

January 27 - "Lifted", a night of worship at GPC

February 7 - Child Dedication Service - Ethan Heyl, Cadence & Hazel Holt, Rainee Mast, Tessa Neff & Eleanor Smucker

February 19 & 20 - "Mingling of Souls" Marriage Conference at GPC

February 21 - Jr High Fundraiser Lunch

February 28 - Pizza with a Pastor

March 6 - SS Electives began

March 7 - Women began a 7 week study entitled "The Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer

March 8 - GPC 101 at Tim & Jen's

March 17 - Members' Meeting

March 20 - Communion Service

April 2 - GPC Annual Basement Sale

May 8 & 15 - GPC 101 in Pastor Tim's office

May 14 - GPC Ladies - "Fill Your Own Planter" at Hilltop Gardens

June 5 - Communion Service

June 8 - "Lifted" a night of worship at GPC

June 18 - Run Ride Walk & Scoot

July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 - Friday Nights in the Park

July 17-21 - Vacation Bible School

September 11 - Communion Service

September 18 - Chicken BBQ Fellowship Meal

September 18 - SS electives began

September 23 - "Lifted" a night of worship at GPC

September 26 - Women of Grace "What Happens when Women say Yes to God", 6 week study began

October 16 - Child Dedication - Mia Meck, Bryce Smoker, Noelle Smoker & Malachi Zook

October 18 - Members & Vision Meeting

October 27 - "Coffee Shop Hop" at The Corner Coffee Shop in Intercourse, Women of Grace event

October 28 - Annual Fall Fun Fest

November 8 - GPC 101 at Tim & Jen's

November 15 - "Coffee Shop Hop" at Speckled Hen, Women of Grace event

December 18 - Annual SS Christmas Program

Adult Education

Our mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by creating an environment in which people can build quality relationships, participate in life-changing Bible study, and develop a lifestyle of reaching out to others.

- Quality Relationships – I belong
- Life changing Bible study – I am transformed
- Develop a lifestyle of reaching out to others – I am on mission

A schedule adjustment was made with the rotation between regular classes in the summer and winter quarters and electives during the fall and spring quarters. Electives were limited to eight-week segments, allowing more time for our regular classes to grow and serve together.

Young Adults

Kevin Hackett

Authentic Connections

James & Corrie Eby

Justin & Alicia Heyl

Salt Shakers

Jim Mast

John Burget

New Life

Brad Beiler

Amos Ebersol

Joyful Servants

Leon Beiler

Ben Wenger

Happy Hearts

Glenn Kunkel

Fred Martin

Tim Rogers

- Lead Pastor

Elders

The Elder Board meets on a monthly basis or as needed along with many e-mails and phone calls between us. Our purpose is to shepherd God's flock at GPC in a manner consistent with Christ's servant leadership.

Some notable events of 2016 include:

- Worked with the missions team to coordinate a short term missions opportunity with the Witmers in Maine, and put plans in place to send exploratory teams to the Dominican Republic, Taiwan, and Cambodia to see how GPC can partner on the ground with our missionaries there. Also assisted in developing opportunities to serve locally through the outreach efforts of the Together Initiative.
- Intentionally prayed for the concerns of the congregation that were collected from communication cards.
- Planned an elders retreat for a time of refreshment and fellowship as a leadership team. Time was spent evaluating the mission, vision, and strategy of the church. We discussed why now is the time to implement this vision, and how to encourage these values to be both organizational and personal (carried out through individuals in the congregation throughout their daily activities)
 - Mission - Developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ
 - Vision - Being present in the town square
 - Strategy - Relentless in the pursuit of the social, spiritual, and cultural good
- Provided leadership and ministry support for Kevin Hackett during Tim's sabbatical over the summer months.
- Started the process of adding an additional staff member that would work in a supportive role within the PV school district. A provision was made in the 2017 budget to allow for this position.
- Began discussion with members of the congregation to look at new and exciting ways to utilize the SS hour to fulfill the mission of Belong, Believe, Become.
- Made an intentional effort to increase awareness of what the church is doing by adding part-time staff to consistently update the social media platforms of Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- Planned a fall Members and Vision Meeting with an intentional effort to communicate what is happening in various ministries at GPC, as well as our vision for the future of these ministries.

- Completed a book study “Color Outside the Lines” by Howard Hendricks.
- James Mast & Jesse Miller finished their terms at the end of 2016. Marty Clemmer and Chris Slabaugh began serving at the beginning of 2017.

We, as an Elder Board, thank you very much for your continued prayer support as we serve Him and you in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,

James Mast, Chair
Amos Ebersol
Kevin Hackett
Jesse Miller
Greg Petersheim
Tim Rogers

**SCHOLARSHIP AID PROGRAM
for Biblical Studies
Grace Point Church of Paradise**

Philosophy

The Pastoral Leadership that the church will need for the next century is now being born, nurtured, and developed, growing out of today's congregations. It is only right that the pool from which our own future pastors will be called, should also be one to which we have been faithfully contributing. The wise are commended for sowing, watering, and cultivating while it is summer, that they may also participate in the reaping later. We intend to imply no commitment or obligation to or from any beneficiary of this program other than to further the faithful and worthy pursuit of their Christian life, witness, studies, and calling.

Purpose

This Scholarship Aid program is for the purpose of investing in, encouraging, and facilitating a solid Biblical education for young men toward a potential pastoral ministry somewhere in the church of Jesus Christ.

Qualification

Young men between the age of 20-40, who have been members of GPC* for at least one year, enrolled for credit in Biblical, Theological, or Pastoral Studies at an approved institution with a doctrinal stance compatible with that of GPC** are eligible to apply. The applicant needs to demonstrate spiritual maturity, character, and giftedness appropriate to pastoral ministry.

Terms

Applicants may apply for grants of up to \$250 per credit hour for courses in the general categories of Bible, Theology, and Pastoral studies. Grants will be approved at the opening of each term by the Elders in accord with available funds and with accountability arrangements set out by the Elders.

* Consideration may be given as funding permits for others who are in some way related directly or indirectly to GPC.

** A list of currently approved institutions are available from the Elders

Approved 11/2/98

Cemetery Report

Beginning Balance - January 1, 2016

Checking Account \$ 18,605.02

Income

Interest \$ 129.09

Donations 6,132.00

Sale of Lots 2,400.00

Funerals 6,950.00

\$15,611.09

Total Income \$ 34,216.11

Expenses

Digging graves \$ 2,960.00

Maintenance (lawn care) 2,702.40

Caretaker 1,650.00

Repairs, fuel, misc. 1,043.25

Buy back unused graves 200.00

Black topping driveway 11,338.05

Total Expenses \$ 19,893.70 \$14,322.41

ENDING BALANCES

Loans to Grace Point Paid Back in Full \$ 17,809.67

\$ 32,132.08

Transferred to CD - 20,000.00

Ending Balance (checkbook) 12/31/16) \$ 12,132.08

Money for perpetual care & future growth

Bank of Bird in Hand \$ 20,000.00 @ 1.25%

Bank of Bird in Hand \$ 80,000.00 @ 1.25%

Nevin Hershey, President

Richard Neff, Secretary

Ben Landis Jr., Treasurer

Children's Department

In 2016, the Children's Department included 39 regularly-attending children from age 2 through grade 5. We also have someone in the hallway during the Sunday School hour. If a teacher would need something, instead of leaving the room, that person is able to get it for them. (ex: copies, water, markers, helping little ones to the bathroom) We have also continued collecting offering again during the SS hour. Our offering goes for LED Solar Lights for Burkina Faso. We have raised \$272.24. That's awesome!

Children's Church was held during the Worship Hour on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Children age 5 through grade 3 were invited to participate. Teachers used music, stories and various activities to present the lesson. During the fall, this time was used to prepare for the annual Christmas program. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this special time possible.

As a congregation, we collected a total of 83 filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, which were sent to children in several different countries. Many of our children look forward to this project, which is a fun way for them to get involved in the joy of giving.

The Christmas program was held on December 18 during the Sunday School hour. Children in grades K through 5 presented a musical called "Star Trip: Our Faith Awakens." The preschool classes also joined them for a song.

We appreciate the dedication of those who have taught SS throughout the year and thank them for taking the time to invest in the future of GPC through the lives of our children.

In September we gave each teacher/helper a commitment letter to commit for another year, running with the school year, September 2016 - September 2017. This will continue as I do not want anyone feeling like they can't get out of teaching or helping.

We could not do this without each and every one helping!

Sharon Burget
- Children's Department Director

Deacon Board

The purpose of the GPC Deacon Board is to serve as a supporting role in assisting the Elders in the work of the ministry of the Church.

There are five Deacons and these positions are currently filled by the following people:

Deacon of Administration	Rob Beiler
Deacon of Property	Kevin Beiler
Deacon of Support	Todd Zimmerman
Deacon of Hospitality	Randy Kunkel
Deacon of Caregiving	Sheri Yoder (replaced Ellie Oberholtzer in 2017)

The Deacon Board is chaired by the Deacon of Administration and met four times in 2016. At other times, decisions were made via email and phone calls. Our discussion and decision making revolved around tending to the physical, material and practical needs both of the congregation and the community.

Some actions taken throughout the year were:

An AED was installed in the sound booth area & emergency/accountability was reviewed with the ushers. Crisis Management Contingency Plans are being reviewed before being adopted.

The porch on the west end was redone with new concrete & design.

The parking lot was sealed & striped during the summer.

The pastor's office was renovated & the basement area is being upgraded.

The HVAC units & pressure water tanks were replaced and upgraded as needed.

Caregiving for our members & community was a top priority and involved scheduling care & assistance when called upon. We receive matching funds from Everence for qualifying needs. This continues to be a challenge and we would ask for your help in distributing & replenishing the Benevolence Fund.

We appreciate your support as we strive to provide the proper oversight and support of various functions of the church and to be of assistance to the Elders.

Rob Beiler
- Deacon of Administration

Flower Committee

Fresh flower arrangements were placed at the welcome center when they were available.

The two large pots at the west entrance were filled with seasonal plants in the spring, summer, fall and winter.

Adrienne Neff
Corrie Eby

Food Service Committee

Committee - Connie Ranck, Glenda Neff, Heidi Kunkel, Michelle Fisher, Katie King, Lynne Huenink

Kitchen Co-managers: Vern Beiler, Linda Beiler

The food service committee served for the following events in 2016:

January 9	Jeneva Beiler memorial meal
January 10	Appreciation Breakfast
March 16	Mary Neff memorial meal
July 8	Friday Night Picnic in the Park
September 18	SS elective breakfast
September 18	Chicken Bar-b-que
September 25	Donuts & coffee
October 2	Donuts & coffee
October 9	Donuts & coffee
November 15	Clarence Neff memorial meal
	Pizza with a Pastor - spring & fall

A BIG thank you to:

- all the committee members for helping to prepare & serve at the events
 - many from the congregation who helped in different ways with the events
 - Randy Kunkel and his crew to set-up and tear-down the fellowship hall
 - for food and monetary donations from the congregation
- Glenda Neff & Connie Ranck

2016 Grace Groups

At Grace Point, we believe we are here to be developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. We believe that growing and maturing together in the context of true community is vital in accomplishing our stated mission. One of the primary ways that we encourage each other to do this is through a network of small community groups, what we like to call "Grace Groups." We currently have five Grace Groups meeting in homes throughout the Lancaster County area.

2016 Grace Groups Listing:

Miller Grace Group, Jesse & Michelle Miller, Leaders: the makeup - 30's to early 50's with children ranging from elementary to high school.

Smoker Grace Group, Vernon & Deb Smoker, Leaders: the makeup - 50's to 60's

Smucker Grace Group, Eric & Sabrina Smucker, Leaders: the makeup - 20's to 30's with young children

Clemmer/Pongracz Grace Group, Marty & Jan Clemmer, Ben & Mo Pongracz, Leaders: the makeup -20's to 50's with children ranging elementary school to adult

Martin Grace Group, Fred & Mim Martin, Leaders: the makeup - 60's to 70's

Library

In 2016, a total 130 books and 47 DVD's were checked out over 51 Sundays, with one Sunday having no library because of church being cancelled due to weather.

10 books and 3 DVD's were donated in 2016.

Joyce Kreider and Connie Ranck finished their terms of service at the end of 2016 and Maria Beiler started a three year term.

- Amber Zimmerman

Missions Committee

2016 was another encouraging year for GPC missions as we continued to help expand the impact of the Together Initiative.

We came together again in 2016 and accomplished the following projects:

- Held community cookout & games every Fri night in July at Paradise Park & Salisbury Township Park
- Provided additional programming and meals for Pequea Valley summer school
- Sponsored workshops through The Factory Ministries

The fifth annual Paradise Run Ride Walk & Scoot was the main fundraising event for the Together Initiative and took place on June 18, 2016. We again partnered with Intercourse Heritage Days for this event. It raised \$15,000 for the Together Initiative. We had great weather and participation for the 5K race, kid's fun run, scooter race and 25 & 50-mile bike rides.

In September, a group of 20 cyclists rode from Salisbury Elementary School to Orlando, FL to raise awareness and money for the Together Initiative. Once in Orlando, members of the Together Initiative presented the work of the Initiative at a national conference on poverty put on by the Aha! Process. \$20,000 was raised for the Initiative.

In 2016, GPC sent several mission teams. We sent Cliff & Shirley Mast to Burkina Faso for two weeks to support the Walsh's and the ministry there. We also sent a team to Monson, Maine for one week to partner with Daryl & Mary Witmer on a work project. Lastly, we sent an exploratory team to the Dominican Republic to meet with the Lehrs and learn how we can partner with Makarios and the ministry there.

Working with Church World Service, we began the process of preparing to host a refugee family. A group of GPC members met during the summer to learn about and prepare for welcoming a refugee family to our community. Near the end of 2016 we were matched with a family from the Democratic Republic of Congo and look forward to their arrival in 2017.

Several members of the missions team assisted Tim with a Missions Policy Manual review.

The missions team also helped plan the annual Fall Fun Fest in October which was another great success.

This year we had the opportunity to devote the entire offering from 12/25/16 to support local ministries and our missionaries. The offering was divided between The Factory Ministries, Open Door Development in Burkina Faso, Makarios in the Dominican Republic, and the Pequea Valley Education Foundation.

We supported the following missionaries in 2016: Nate & Krystal Eby, Bobby & Michelle Law, Don & Tabitha Nguyen, Heather Albrecht, Matt & Julie Walsh, Daryl & Mary Witmer and Kevin & Christine Lehr.

The 2016 missions team members were: Katie Kauffman, Tim Rogers, Jessica Smoker, Marty Clemmer, Lloyd Eby, Cliff Mast and Linda Beiler. Thank you for your participation and support throughout the year! We thank God for the ways He used GPC in 2016.

Tim Rogers
- Missions Committee Chairman

**Necessary Steps
in preparation for Short Term or Career Mission Service
as a member of
GRACE POINT CHURCH OF PARADISE**

Jesus Christ instructed us to "... go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15) Certainly we need not to leave our home community to do that...and we don't become a missionary by crossing water or leaving home. There are missionary opportunities all around us...at school, work, or in our daily routine of meeting and interacting with those around us.

However, there are times in our lives when God may ask us to "go" to a particular place as an answer to His call to us individually, or He may call us to be part of a group who will engage in missionary work of some nature...stateside or in a foreign country.

If you sense a call from God, through His Holy Spirit speaking to you, here is what you should do, in the order listed:

1. Arrange to talk with Pastors or the Missions Committee chairman, in order to receive help in discerning your call and area of interest.
2. As a part of above consultation, you will receive help to think about the most appropriate mission agency to which you should apply, and the church will assist you in this, in order that you know you have the full backing of your congregation as you move ahead.

Financial Considerations:

1. Particularly in the case of short-term missions, it is necessary to raise support. The Missions Committee will be quite helpful in this process if you are working with us from the beginning.
2. Fund raising activities are encouraged, in keeping with those methods approved by the church.
3. Modest grants are available to qualified persons from the Etta and Mel Beiler Trust Fund, with consideration given regarding length of service, availability of funds, etc. These funds are administered by the Missions Committee.
4. Members may designate support for missionaries in the offering envelope system. However, contributions must be to agencies and not directly to the candidate, otherwise they would not be tax deductible.
Commissioning services are usually scheduled for persons serving for one month or more.

Nursery

It was a very busy year in our nursery! We had a few 2nd and 5th birthdays which meant a few transitions for each of our rooms. We welcomed six little ones this year which adds to our nursery as well. On average in the nursery we have 5-9 little ones. We still have three volunteers during the worship hour.

In the toddler room, our 2-4 year olds average between 9-11 each Sunday. And we still have four serving during the worship hour. Because of safety reasons, we have two volunteers doing restroom breaks and two volunteers staying in the room with the other children.

Early in 2016 we had a child dedication service. There were five precious lives dedicated to Christ!

Our volunteers are the best! There are approximately 75 volunteers taking turns in the nursery. They always do a great job with our precious children.

Sharon Burget
- Nursery Coordinator

Spotlight Student Ministries

Our Spotlight group consists of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. We average around 15 youth at our events. We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month for Bible Study, plan one other activity each month, and do outreach opportunities throughout the year. The following is an overview of our year:

January	Glow Bowling
February	Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser for Philadelphia Trip
March	Game day at TCC
April	Shantytown Night and Philadelphia Missions Trip for 7th & 8th Graders
May	Mystery Day (photo scavenger hunt)
June	Chickie's Rock Hike & Picnic
July	- off month
August	Cabin weekend
September	S'mores Bonfire & Games
October	Spoons Tournament
November	Sr & Jr High Youth Retreat at Black Rock
December	Nativity Skit at Kitchen Kettle Village Christmas Outreach - caroled & delivered gift bags to GPC members at Landis Homes

A few of our Bible Study topics were:

- The Life of Jesus: How to lead a life of significance and ways to know Jesus better
- Family Matters: Real-life every-day issues addressing the need to practice self-control with siblings and getting along with parents
- The Bible: The importance of learning and navigating the Bible, plus memorizing verses

We have enjoyed working with the Spotlight Group. We thank you for your continued prayer support and words of encouragement over the past year.

Spotlight Leadership Team,

Darren & Kelly Neff
John & Steph King
Austin & Katie Beiler
Corinne Petersheim

Senior High Student Group

Sunday School – This year our study entitled “REVERB” took us through thematic lessons focused on God’s mission in the world. We talked about God’s overarching mission and our individual roles in that mission.

Wednesday Group – Food, fun and fellowship typify our Wednesday evening gatherings. Each evening has a Bible Study component and a chance to get more personal in small group discussions. Our key studies this year have focused on the Trinitarian Nature of God, our identity in Christ and some key women in the Bible who exemplify the timeless principles of the scriptures. The volunteer leaders and I love the opportunity to get to know students in this open and relational environment.

Over the summer, we continued a tradition passed down from Wes McDonald and we took to the homes of staff and students and even some outings to Paradise Park. Our meetings consisted of pool parties, ultimate frisbee, game nights, bonfires and good conversations.

Activities and Events – Here’s what has been on our calendar:

Super Bowl Party at the Miller’s house, Irish Odyssey scavenger hunt all over Lancaster County, Capture the Flag with stuff (at the Fisher’s house), Ping-Pong Tournament (at GPC with official bracket), Father/Son backpacking trip on the Tuscarora Trail, Jr High and Sr High combined kick-off event, Pumpkin Bash (at the Fisher’s house), overnight retreat at Black Rock (with a focus on identity), and an Ugly Sweater Christmas Party to cap it off.

All activities are planned with the intention of getting to know our students and building relationships along the way that encourage and challenge. Creating space and environments where trust and openness grows allows us to meet students where they are and point them to Christ.

Staff – Adult staff this past year included Dylan Salyards, Tim and Heather Albrecht, Ben and Mo Pongracz, Josh Krug, and Bethany Rudy (our newest member)

Last note - It has been a privilege to serve in this pastoral capacity along with my wife and other volunteer leaders. I am continually blessed in countless ways through the relationships with students, staff and their families. My family instantly felt at home here and look forward to continuing this journey of faith at GPC.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Hackett
- Pastor of Student Ministries

Women of Grace

- A Ministry for Women at GPC -

The Women of Grace, Women's ministry has seen a year of growth in 2016. We love seeing women connecting with each other and growing in their faith.

We hosted a "fill your own planter" event at Hilltop Gardens in the spring. Ladies bring their flower pots and the staff at the greenhouse give us some ideas and then the ladies enjoyed creating their own.

We continue to offer a fall and winter Bible Study session with a morning and evening group.

We held our first ever Women's Winter Retreat in February. We gathered at Kenbrook Bible Camp and had a wonderful time of relaxation, fun and fellowship. Our weekend speaker was JJ Landis.

We also started the "Coffee Shop Hop" event. We choose a different coffee shop each month and ladies come when it works for their schedule. We averaged 10-16 ladies each time. Great evenings of fellowship and encouragement.

Michele Miller

Community Cooperative Programs

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is a community program designed to provide meals for residents who for various reason, would otherwise not be receiving proper nutrition.

The program is designed to provide one hot meal and one cold meal to participants five days a week. There is a nominal fee to cover the cost of the food. The preparation, the packaging, and the transporting of the food to the resident recipients is the result of volunteer service.

The cold meal and the packaging is done in the kitchen of the Leacock Presbyterian Church. Bird-in-Hand Restaurant prepares the hot meals. We serve about 26 meals a day.

It takes many volunteers to cover kitchen help and drivers for two routes to deliver meals. Volunteers from GPC are Peg Graber, Nevin & Ruth Hershey, Charlie & Glenda Neff and Ellie Oberholtzer.

Happy Hearts SS Class donates \$300 to help cover the cost. We thank each one that helped.

Ruth Hershey
- Board Member
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Wednesday Night BLAST

This year was a great year of transition for our Wednesday Night BLAST ministry. We are meeting at the Together Community Center and that location has been a great fit. The kids are loving the station rotation of interactive Bible time, interest groups, gym and snack & chat. The kids are divided up by grade levels. The crews move from station to station with their crew leaders.

We finished out our 2016 winter session with a BLAST celebration. The students and their parents joined us for supper and a slide show at the TCC. We have some of our stations open for the parents to see where the kids spend their time during a typical BLAST evening.

The biggest change for 2016-2017 BLAST year was our change in schedule. We meet for a six week session in the fall and a six week session in the winter, with a longer holiday break. This transition has been received with very positive feedback. It allows our crew leaders a chance to develop better relationships with the students.

We now have computerized check-in for the students which simplifies our check-in and pick-up of the students.

Michelle Miller, Regan Rothenberger & Dani Smoker

Vacation Bible School - 2016

Cave Quest: Following Jesus the Light of the World

Curriculum

This year, once again, we used Group's most current curriculum, "Cave Quest: Following Jesus the Light of the World." Children, ranging from Pre-K through those who completed grade 5, spent the week spelunking through dark caves with Jesus as their light. They learned that Jesus is the One who lights our way and gives us hope for each new day. Because His love illuminates when the path is dark, we can follow Jesus wherever He leads.

Attendance

The average nightly attendance was 90 children. Approximately 95 volunteers helped throughout the course of the week with 80 staff helping every night and an additional 15 filling in as needed. Of those 95 volunteers, 22 were teens. Everyone was a huge blessing to make this ministry happen!

Nightly Format

Each evening began with an assembly time in the sanctuary. The elementary children and preschoolers alike were treated to a short skit and song time. Following the assembly, each child, along with their crews, visited four different stations: Bible Teaching, Snacks and Kid Vid, Games, and Imagination Station. Imagination Station, a new station for Group, used science and related experiments to help teach the evening's theme. The kids loved it! For the elementary students the evening concluded with a short closing assembly. Pre-school crews ended their evening with a short circle time.

Crews

Crews were led by an adult crew leader and teenage crew assistant. There were 5 preschool crews, four K-2 crews and three 3-5 crews. An effort was made to keep crews smaller this year. Each crew contained approximately 6-8 children.

Missions Project

This year's project raised money for the Walsh family, GPC-sponsored missionaries in Burkina Faso, to purchase another water pump for their village's water system. The children raised the grand total of \$2,299.22, far exceeding our goal of \$1,500!

Music CDs

Each family attending VBS was given, as in previous years, a cd containing the Cave Quest music. GPC families' CDs were placed in their church mailboxes in the spring. Other families attending VBS received them at the registration table.

Advertising

Two main forms of advertisement were utilized this year to notify families in the community of GPC's VBS. During the last week of June, a color advertisement was placed in the Pequea Valley Penny Saver. Then, in the beginning of July, an email invitation/flyer was sent out to all of the families of children who attended VBS or BLAST in the past two years.

Dinner

Dinner was provided for staff and their families before VBS Monday through Thursday. A donation basket at both the Welcome Center on Sundays and serving counter each evening of VBS helped cover the meal costs.

Closing Social

Thursday, the final evening, was a special family event. VBS families were invited to participate in the entire evening. The evening began in the sanctuary with a final assembly time and a slideshow highlighting the week's activities. Following the assembly, everyone proceeded to the fellowship hall where they watched a reptile show given by Forgotten Friends' reptile expert, Jesse Rothacker. After the presentation, families made their way out to the parking lot for an ice cream social and sundae bar.

Directors: Abby Tyrrell and Kristen Gentzler