

Stay Lit-Reclaiming the Light

Grace on the Hill Church Vision



Rev. Dr. Scott Wilson

Proverbs 29:18 tells us that where there is no vision, the people perish. Without vision, we can find ourselves wandering aimlessly seeking something we cannot find because we do not know what it is we are looking for. For the church, the mission statement tells us where we are going and the vision statement describes who we will be once we get there.

At Grace on the Hill, our mission is "To make disciples who let God's GRACE shine" through Growing, Reaching, Assisting, Caring, and Exalting. We are called to be a city on a hill, and as such, to shine the light of Jesus throughout this community and beyond. We do this through the ministries and activities that we do. When we live into our mission, the grace of God shines brightly in us and through us.

Ultimately, the vision is that the people of Grace on the Hill not only shine bright, but that we never allow the darkness to overtake us. If we allow the things like anger, jealousy, gossip, hate, unforgiveness, or selfishness into our lives and into the life of the church, God's light in us becomes dim, and can eventually fade altogether. The goal is to never allow our light to dim, but in other words, to "Stay Lit."

August 8, 2021 we officially reclaim the light. Jesus said that He is the light of the world in John 8:12 and in Matthew 5:14 we are called to be that light--a city on the hill. We are never to allow darkness to overtake us. We are called to Stay Lit with the grace of God that others may see the light and be drawn to Jesus.

The Vision to Stay Lit is not a cliché or a spin-off of a secular phrase. It is literally what we at Grace on the Hill intend to do. We will reclaim the light of Jesus and will work hard every day to not allow our lights to dim. We will Stay Lit so that others may see the Grace of God in us and come to know Jesus through us. We will Stay Lit because we are committed to living into our mission and making our vision a reality. We will Stay Lit because it is what God has called us to do.

Now is the time to shine bright and allow the light of Jesus to show through you and through Grace on the Hill. In a world filled with darkness make sure that you Stay Lit.

LET G.R.A.C.E. SHINE!

by Megan Fields and Luke Osborne



Megan:



In February, the Next Steps team had just decided to stick with GRACE as an acronym for our discipleship teams. After prayer and devotion, Ideal Curtis, our Next Steps team coach and mentor, asked us about a vision for the church. Megan: "All of the sudden, while praying to myself, I got hit like a bolt of lightning with an actual vision, with the church as a beacon of light. I remember feeling like I wasn't in the room anymore. I couldn't hear or see anything going on in the meeting for a second. I vaguely remember blurting what I saw, which was the church as a lighthouse. If you've ever tried to explain a Holy Spirit movement at the time, it isn't easy. Through half-shut eyes, and some blubbering, I tried to explain the picture of the entire steeple tower as a lighthouse showing the lost the way home. God told me we're supposed to "watch" out for them, and shine the light for them. It wasn't long after this that I realized an acronym for "We are the church" is WATCH. Weyman had also just shared a devotion about lighthouses at the meeting prior. This vision also confirmed a previous God-given vision for a new church logo idea Nate Clouse and I had both been given in October. Slowly, but surely, and oh so perfectly, it was all coming together in a way only He could orchestrate.

After I shared the lighthouse vision, Tim Bryant reminded us it kept with Matthew 5, a prayer we've had for years about moving to the hill: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Ideal then asked about a motto for our church, now that we had a God-given vision. God was still speaking to me, so I don't remember much, but in my Holy Spirit drunkenness, I remember Ideal saying, "Sounds like the Holy Spirit." Soon after, I heard Luke pretty much blurt out three words, and all I remember is uncontrollable shaking like I'd been electrocuted.

I'm not sure how those words came to him, so I'll let him take the helm on the next page.

Here is the logo I created from that vision. It is the church logo we use now.





LET G.R.A.C.E. SHINE!



by Megan Fields and Luke Osborne

Luke: "I remember the discussion so well about the birth of the motto "Let Grace Shine." I don't know that I have ever been a part of such a meeting where the Holy Spirit literally took the wheel and led us in such a way that is even hard to describe.

The word GRACE is and always has been very important in our church. In the midst of our conversation as a team, the Holy Spirit was working through me and I found myself focusing on a piece of paper, hearing a voice, grabbing a pen and just jotting down the phrase "Let Grace Shine," which is exactly what I had heard from that voice.

In the last three years of my discipleship journey God has been speaking to me in very real ways, and every time He does, I write it down. Sometimes I write it down and doubt, other times I chuckle because it doesn't make sense, yet there are times I know when and where it is supposed to be shared. This particular moment, all three of these thoughts happened very quickly. I doubted, chuckled to myself, and just smacked the table and proclaimed "LET GRACE SHINE." From there I remember feeling like "where did that come from? Did I say that aloud?" Something clicked. Every team member was wide eyed, heads nodding and I remember making eye contact with Megan and it seemed that she was about to fall out of her chair, due to the tangible presence that was hovering around the table at that specific moment! I also remember hearing one of our team members say "Wow!" After that short, but very important moment we knew that phrase of "Let GRACE shine" was completely from God and perfectly aligned with every other vision or message that someone else had received."

From this three-letter phrase, the Next Steps team and our church has been using the phrase "Making disciples who let God's GRACE shine" as our church mission.

Let's also mention that the first time our brand new pastor at the time, Dr. Scott Wilson, shared a devotion with us was at the June Next Steps meeting. He shared about Matthew 5 and being a light for God in a dark world.

A Letter From Our Grow Team Leader

Equipping and developing disciples to become more like
Jesus.

Bill Jones, Grow team leader



You have taken your first step toward spiritual maturity when you put your faith in Jesus Christ. Now what? This is the purpose of the Grow team. We are focused on equipping, developing, and owning our growth to become more like Jesus.

Take a moment and read Ephesians 4:11-16. Christ gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers the command to equip His people for works of service. Why? So that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature and reach our fullness in Christ. God intends Christians to mature and become like Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus marks the beginning of our Christian growth.

Our Grow team will focus on this mission through the development of discipleship programs in our church, for example, children's ministry, youth ministry, Sunday School, women and men's ministry, small-group discipleship classes, and many others. I invite you to join the Grow Team as we ask the question "What's Next?" What is our next step in creating a discipleship program at Grace on the Hill that will enable each person to become a mature Christian who continues to follow Christ, abound in His work, and experience His grace and love.

OUR REACH TEAM

GUS CLOUSE, REACH TEAM LEADER

Creating engaging events and opportunities to show Jesus both inside and outside the church.



The Reach Committee is an arm of the Next Steps team. The idea is to reach out to people in the church to involve them and to those outside the church to teach them about our Lord, and Grace On the Hill's mission.

Reach includes Evangelism, Grace Sports, Recreation, The Car Show, the Nibroc booth, and The Arts & Crafts Fair.

Grace Sports includes over 100 boys and girls who come here to play. This is an excellent opportunity to invite those young families who do not have a home church to learn more about us.

Recreation is looking to plan more Fun Day Sundays. Our Nerf Wars 2.0 was well attended. With the warming of the weather, we hope to move some of those events outdoors and to the lower property.

The Car Show had dozens of cars show up, with tons of people in attendance. This is a great event that attracts participants and viewers from all over.

If you would like to be a part of the Reach team, please let Gus Clouse know or attend the next meeting.

OUR ASSIST/CARE TEAM

Building relationships by
meeting needs through
personal connections.

By Assist/Care team leaders
Cindy Carter & Kim Hamlin



The Assist/Care team is led by Cindy Carter and Kim Hamlin. We are committed to this team because we believe it's essential as believers that we care for each other in times of crisis or special need.

We also believe that crisis situations are a time we can reach out to them through a meal, a conversation, or any way we can serve them.

The Assist/Care team formed quickly in response to Covid as we reached out with masks, care packages and prayer to several groups in our community.

It is an honor for our team to provide bereavement meals, stay in touch with our home-bound members, help with church picnics and potlucks, greet and follow up with visitors, and whatever else is required of us.

Our team is very active and has the most willing and faithful members. If you want to be a part of our team, we'd love for you to join us! Just let us know!

Our Exalt Team

Empowering the use of gifts and callings to minister to others
By Morgan Preston, Exalt Team Leader



In chapter 12 of Romans, Paul compares the church to a body. Romans 12: 4-5 says, "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." Paul goes on to describe how God gives each of us different gifts for doing certain things well, natural abilities that God bestows on us so that we can bless Him and bless each other.

The church is made up of all of these gifted people and guess what, YOU ARE ONE OF THEM! Believe it or not, you are at Grace on the Hill because God has a mission for you here. You belong here and, as a matter of fact, you don't just belong, you are needed!

The Next Steps team has been working on structuring ministries in our church so that everyone can find a place to let their light shine by using the gifts God has given them. We've built four teams around this project: Grow, Reach, Assist/Care, and Exalt.

The Exalt team launched in the Fall of 2020. It focuses on empowering the people in this church to develop their spiritual gifts, leading them into worship of the Lord, which, by the way, involves much more than singing praises. You may be wondering what exactly the Exalt team does. The Exalt team involves such ministries as our Grace Music praise team, FaceTime, prayer ministry, original songs, communications, production team and more. If you've noticed these ministries at work, then you've seen the Exalt team doing their job. The great news is that we have a place for you if these sound like ministries you may be gifted in!

Remember, if the church is the body, you have a role that is necessary to the functioning of this church. Are you interested in using your gifts for the Exalt team? Listen for the next meeting invite or see Morgan Preston! We'll find a place for you!

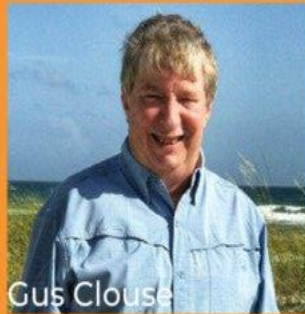
Our GRACE teams



Bill Jones

GROW

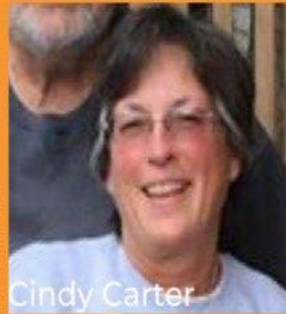
Equipping and developing disciples to become more like Jesus



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REACH

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Building relationships by meeting needs through personal connections.



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GROW

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Youth ministry

Children's ministry

Sunday School teachers

Women's ministry

Men's Ministry

REACH

Creating engaging events and opportunities to show Jesus both inside and outside the church.

Evangelism Explosion

Grace Sports

Car Show

NIBROC

Drama

Church Van

Preschool Board

Arts & Crafts Fair

ASSIST/CARE

Building relationships by meeting needs through personal connections

Ushers/Greeters

Bereavement meals

Food pantry

ARK room

Clothing drives

Missions

Crisis response

EXALT

Empowering the use of gifts and callings to minister to others

Praise Team

Communications Team

Production Team

Prayer chain