

Gravel Ridge General Baptist Church

Newsletter

Time to Serve the Lord *by Brother Robert*



As you begin the New Year I hope that you consider how you can serve the Lord in 2009. In the book of Acts, chapter one, verse eight, Jesus told his apostles that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit had come upon them. Jesus continued to say that they would be his witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

When you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, you were filled with the Holy Spirit, just as the apostles were in Acts; and you received his power to be a witness unto the world. All you have to do is be ready, roll up your sleeves, and go to work. All the Lord asks is for you to serve him. He will give you the power to be a difference maker, just like he did the apostles. Joshua says it better than anyone: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Don't you think it is about time to serve the Lord and not yourself? Think about it!

Brother Robert

Vision for 2009 *by Brother Adam*



I hope everyone enjoyed the youth events that we participated in last year. Now, as the year begins I pray that God gives us a vision to reach out as a youth group and as a church family, to spread the Word of God. In 1 Corinthians, chapter 9, verse 19-23, Paul talks about reaching out to all sorts of people. Although not obligated, he does it to win over souls for the Word of God.

I believe that if we come together as a church family to make it our

duty and goal for 2009 to do whatever it takes to reach out and spread the Word of God in our community, we can make a difference. We all have been joined together through the Holy Spirit to fellowship and do the work of God. I encourage you to pray daily for our church and the things that God lays on all of our hearts, to do whatever it takes to spread the Word of our Savior, Jesus Christ to whoever God puts in our path.

God bless you and let's make a difference this year. We can make a difference, Gravel Ridge General Baptist Church!

Your brother in Christ,
Adam Pate

Bible Study Schedule

- January 7— 1 Peter, Chapter 2
- January 14— Business Meeting
- January 21— 1 Peter, Chapter 3
- January 28— 1 Peter, Chapter 4
- February 4— 1 Peter, Chapter 5
- February 11— Review/DVD
- February 18— 2 Peter, Chapter 1
- February 25— 2 Peter, Chapter 2

The Apostle Peter was born and named Simon (or Simeon). He had a brother Andrew, who introduced him to Jesus and was himself a disciple of John the Baptist. Jesus called Simon "Cephas", which means 'rock' and is translated "Peter". If you would like to learn more about Peter, join us for Bible Study, Wednesdays at 6:30 PM.

Upcoming Youth Events

Winter Jam



February 6, 2009 - 7:00 PM
(We will leave the church at 6:00 PM.)

CORE Retreat



February 27-28, 2009
(We will leave Gravel Ridge General Baptist Church at 4:30 PM on February 27 and return to the church on February 28.)



Come Grow With Us

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Prayer Requests

- † For Baby McKenna Gulpepper.
- † For the Haley family.
- † For Kathy McKay.
- † For Gerald & Virginia Thomason.
- † For Ara Waldrop.
- † For Brother Robert & Lisa.
- † For the USA.
- † For our troops.
- † For our church.



**Youth Christmas Program
December, 2008**



Announcements

Business Meeting
Wednesday, January 14,
6:30 pm.

We exceeded our Goal!
Our goal for Toys for Tots was 40 toys. We collected 70 and delivered them to Toy Hill on December 7. Well done, everyone!!

Remember to **donate food stuffs** for monthly delivery to the food pantry. Baskets are located at the back of the sanctuary or cash donations can be placed in the box in the vestibule. More info, contact Mechelle Pate.

Men's Breakfast
February 21, 9:00 AM at Golden Corral in NLR.

Potluck
Sunday, February 8, following morning service.

Looking Back

Our goals for 2008 were three conversions/rededications and five baptisms. As of this printing, we have reached 67% of our conversion goal with one conversion and one rededication. We attained 80% of our baptism goal, with four baptisms.

Eleven people joined our church family in 2008.

Let us pray that God will continue to bless our church in 2009 and that we will reflect the light of Christ.

In the Spotlight

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.



Happy Anniversary!

Feb. 8 John and Kim Klindt

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13).

Happy Birthday!



Jan. 10	Nick McCracken
Jan. 23	Dooney Pate
Jan. 27	Chris Shoults
Jan. 29	Dalyn Shoults
Feb. 4	Hunter Byard
Feb. 24	Maddie Carter

Looking Forward

January 14, 2009 will be our first business meeting of the year. Brother Robert has requested that we all pray about our goals for 2009 and prepare to participate in a goal setting session at the meeting.

Please be prayerful and make an effort to attend the meeting. It is our responsibility to work with our pastor to set goals and to conduct the business of our church.

What is your vision for 2009?



Bible Trivia

The answers to these questions will be printed in the next issue:

Answers to trivia questions in the November issue:

1. Producing water from rock (Numbers 20)
2. Wrestling with God (Gen 32:2)
3. A wall (Daniel 5:5-12)
4. Judges chapter 16
5. Blood of a lamb (Ex 11:5-7)
6. Jeremiah 36:20-27)
7. Fall down & worship him (Daniel 3:15)
8. Ephesians 4:11
9. Matthew 5:13
10. John 11:35
11. 2 Thessalonians 5:17

1. Who enticed Samson into telling the secret of his strength?
2. Whom did Joseph ask his brothers to bring to Egypt to prove they were not spies?
3. Who was taken up to Heaven in a Chariot of fire?
4. What prominent individual was the first cremated in the Bible?
5. What did the Israelite people ask Samuel for at Ramah?
6. What are the first two words of every Beatitude recorded in Matthew?
7. What did Mary use to wipe the feet of Jesus after anointing them with perfume?
8. What two things does God tell Abraham that his offspring will be as numerous as?
9. What species of animal spoke to Balaam?
10. Who were the parents of King Solomon?
11. How many books of the Bible are named for women?
12. What were the names of the first twins mentioned in the Bible?

January 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Bible Study	8	9	10 Happy Birth- day, Nick McCracken!
11	12	13	14 Business Meeting	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Bible Study	22	23 Happy Birth- day, Dooney Pate!	24
25	26	27 Happy Birth- day, Chris Shoult!	28 Bible Study	29 Happy Birth- day, Dalyn Shoult!	30	31

Note: All Wednesday night meetings begin at 6:30 PM.

February 2009						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 Brother Adam will preach	2	3	4 Happy Birth- day, Hunter Byard! Bible Study	5	6 Winter Jam Leave church @ 6:00 PM	7
8 Potluck Happy Anni- versary, Kim & John Klindt	9	10	11 Bible Study	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Bible Study	19	20	21 Men's Break- fast-9:00 AM
22	23	24 Happy Birth- day, Maddie Carter!	25 Bible Study	26	27 CORE Retreat Leave church @ 4:30 PM	28 Return from CORE Re- treat

**Gravel Ridge General
Baptist Church**

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The Cocoon & the Butterfly *By Arthur Unknown*



A man found a cocoon of a butterfly and took it home.

One day a small opening appeared in the cocoon. He sat and watched the cocoon for several hours as the butterfly struggled to force its body through that little hole. Then it seemed to stop making progress. It appeared as if the butterfly had gotten as far as it could, and it could go no further. The man decided to help the butterfly in its struggle. He took a pair of scissors and snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon... and the butterfly emerged easily.

As the butterfly emerged, the man

was surprised. It had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings.

He continued to watch the butterfly expecting that, at any moment, the wings would dry out, enlarge and expand to support the swollen body. He knew that in time the body would contract and the butterfly would be able to fly.

But neither happened! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never was able to fly.

What the man, in his kindness and haste, did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle were required for the butterfly to be able to fly. The butterfly must push its way through the tiny opening to force

the fluid from its body and wings. Only by struggling through the opening, can the butterfly's wings be ready for flight once it emerges from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If God allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as we could have been... And, we could never fly.



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"I'm not completely sure you understand the concept of faith yet Mike..."

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"That last sermon was a real doozy pastor... it was all I could do not to come forward!"