

Grace Today



Soon to be unveiled: The GCC Institute

In our mission 2020 documents, we discussed offering classes and seminars which would help us train our adults in those areas not easily served by our expanding small group ministry. The elders recently approved the all-new GCC Institute. The unveiling of the Institute will be in January beginning with a class entitled "The Gospels".

Michael Owed and I have been working on this plan for several months now. Michael has done much of the legwork of designing a manageable approach to some evening courses which could offer adults training in Bible, theology, and practical matters. By offering these evening classes, and by including the occasional weekend seminar on key matters like marriage and parenting, and we think we will offer some great supplemental training to the small group and discipleship group mix we have now.

How will the classes work?

We'll start with one class in the winter to test the waters. The class will meet for 2 hours every other week for about 10-12 hours of total teaching. That class will conclude and then be followed by another topic. As mentioned, the first course will be the gospels, followed by a theology course that is essential for officer trainees but helpful for all. Over the next several years we will give you key pieces of the Bible to help you learn key steps to understanding various types of writings in the Bible. Theology and apologetics (defending the faith) are in the mix as well. If you have questions, feedback or comments please let Michael or me know.

Marriage Seminar 2010

One piece of our plan for adult education fell nicely into place when our sister church announced plans to host Dr. Bryan Chapell and his wife for a marriage seminar March 5-6 in 2010. Dr. Chapell is the president of Covenant Theological Seminary and is well known for his ability to bring the core of the gospel to all of life. We will promote this seminar at GCC as a part of our training here at GCC.

In future years we will plan weekend seminars of our own to help supplement the excellent growth and fellowship you get in a great small group.

I'm thankful for Michael's work on a plan to supplement what our small group ministry offers. Make no mistake- small groups are where great things happen to our souls. It is in

that intimate community together as disciples where the greatest growth occurs. We learn together through the joys and sorrows, the successes and failures, the bumps and bruises of life together. The word of God comes especially alive in those groups, and we become a team of ministers to one another. The GCC Institute will offer an excellent piece to our total ministry offering at GCC, rounding us out as a church.

In Him,

Don Ward

If you're looking for more adult education opportunities:

You can go to seminary while driving!

In the process of working on the GCC Institute, Michael and Don had their eyes peeled for "out of the box" theological training to offer our church. Where we didn't find exactly what we were looking for, we have bumped into some excellent resources that can be downloaded to an ipod/mp3 player or burned to a CD and played in your car. You can become a Bible Scholar in your own right these days. Many of these resources are free or very cheap:

www.thirdmill.org

Third Mill offers seminary level training for a recommended donation of 2 dollars per course. They are actually downloadable for free. This is material from excellent teachers and is theologically sound.

<http://www.worldwide-classroom.com/>

Covenant Theological Seminary offers a great deal of class material online for free. For a very low cost you can enroll in their online certificate program. 20 courses are online for free right now- from a class in Leviticus to Youth Ministry.

Itunes.com

Itunes is a free program that is most often used with ipod products, but includes with it a link to the itunes store. While you can purchase your favorite music, there are countless Christian talks and lessons downloadable. The resurgence.com group has many of their training talks online, including great interviews with leaders like John Piper and DA Carson (a great Bible teacher/and biblical scholar). If you search "Tedd Tripp" at the itunes store, you should find four great free talks on parenting.

We are all busy- but there is time in our lives when we can get amazing training all the while keeping our eyes alert for traffic. Of course you can get more out of these talks attentively at home, but if you have a long drive somewhere...why not complete your seminary training for free! These tools can help your faith become both more alive and better grounded.

Announcements

Communion and Potluck Friday, September 18th at 6:30pm

Don't forget to join us for this time of communion and fellowship! Plan to bring a 2-liter of soda along with a main dish as well as a side dish or dessert. Hope to see you there!

GCC Meals Ministry

If you are not currently receiving emails from us asking for occasional help with meals for families at GCC and would like to participate in this ministry, please contact the church office, Monica Jerabek, Terri Wilson, or Maria Jones. The time commitment is only what you are willing and able to give, and the meals can be either homemade or store-bought!

Nursery Equipment Needed

The nursery is looking for a gently used exersaucer to use for our children on Sunday mornings. If you can help, contact Kim McKean at cvillermh@juno.com.

We Need Pictures!

If you have any photos of recent events at Grace, please send them to Peter Edwards at peter.d.edwards@gmail.com so they can be used for the new website (www.cvillegrace.org)!

Looking for a Small Group?

We have a variety of small groups meeting in various locations throughout the area. If you're looking to join a small group, please contact the church office (sdyck@gcchurch.com) or see the small group list in the foyer on Sundays to find the group meeting closest to where you live!

Youth Events

Parent Meeting

There will be a parent meeting at the church on Saturday, September 26th. Time TBA- please mark your calendars!

Crossroads

The next Crossroads is Sunday, September 27th! See you there!

Youth Emails

If you are a parent or student who is not receiving the Youth Emails and would like to, please contact Shack Shelley to be added to the list. lilshack@embarqmail.com

Women's Events

Person of Jesus Study

This study will meet at the church every other Wednesday. Welcome and refreshments will be from 9:00am-9:30am, study will begin at 9:30am. If you need childcare, call Carol Hill at 973-2899.

Community Board

Homeschool Support Group

Are you a homeschooling mom in need of support & encouragement? A group just for you is now in place! Group will meet the first & third Tuesdays of the month, from 7-9pm. If interested, please contact Lisa at go2thegym@comcast.net so we have an idea of how many to expect.

The Salvation Army needs people like you!

The Salvation Army of Charlottesville needs volunteers to be bell ringers and to help with Angel Tree ministries this Christmas season. For more information please contact either the church office (sdych@gcchurch.com) or volunteer coordinator Lisa Chapman at 295-4058 ext. 118.

Fall Counselor Training at The Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia

Perhaps you have considered volunteering at The Pregnancy Center. You may have thought, "I could never do that!" If you are nervous, that's alright with us. We need the nervous, even the fearful. God uses those who have a heart and are willing to learn. If that describes you, we'd love to have you! We will teach you how to help women make good choices they can live with while sharing the Gospel and much more during all 7 classes. Training will be held at our Downtown Center on the following dates from 6-9pm:

- Monday, September 14th
- Thursday, September 17th
- Friday, September 18th
- Monday, September 21st
- Thursday, September 24th
- Friday, September 25th
- Monday, September 28th

Cost for the training is \$25. We also have openings for receptionists!

Call today to register! Your life will be richly blessed as you help others!

Call Pat @ 434-979-8888

Please help me with my school work!

Abundant Life Ministries needs adults, college students, mature high school students to be tutors to low-income city students. Great opportunity for family members to serve together. Once/week commitment to same child for school year. Structured lesson plans provided for K-4th; general homework help for 5th & up. Carpools available! Staff oversight for all programs.

- Grades K-4th: M, T, W or Th, 3:20-5:00 pm at Johnson School
- Grades 5/6th: T or Th, 2:30-3:30 pm at Walker School
- Grades 7/8th: M or W, 2:30-3:30 pm at Buford School
- High School (girls): during 45-minute lunch period, Thursdays at CHS

Contact: Main@CharlottesvilleAbundantLife.org or 970-2077.