

WHO KNEW?

GLIMPSES OF OUR VISION

PER

Recently I visited one of our partner churches and I was given just three to four minutes to share about Free Grace and what God has been doing in us. As I thought about what to share, I realized that over this past year he has given us glimpses of what it looks like to live out our vision, *broken people bound together in Christ for God's glory.*

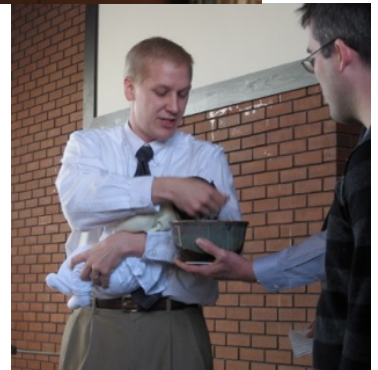
Here are some of the glimpses God has given us over the past year:

- ▶ **Worship** - On May 2nd we began worshipping together Sunday mornings.
- ▶ **Building** - God provided a wonderful building, giving us a home to worship in with aesthetics to encourage our worship and a place to do the work of the church. It is even well known in the community.
- ▶ **Jordan's Bridge** - The client load has grown, keeping Ken busy bringing the healing of the gospel into broken lives.



- ▶ **Members** - We began receiving members and currently have 28 members representing 10 families and are averaging 40 people at worship Sunday mornings. We also got to rejoice in God's covenant relationship with us as we celebrated two baptisms.

- ▶ **Our Community** - People are getting to know us. We're becoming a recognizable part of the community. Our "landmark" building, a community service award from the mayor, energetic missions teams, and involvement with the Root Cellar have helped make us more visible.



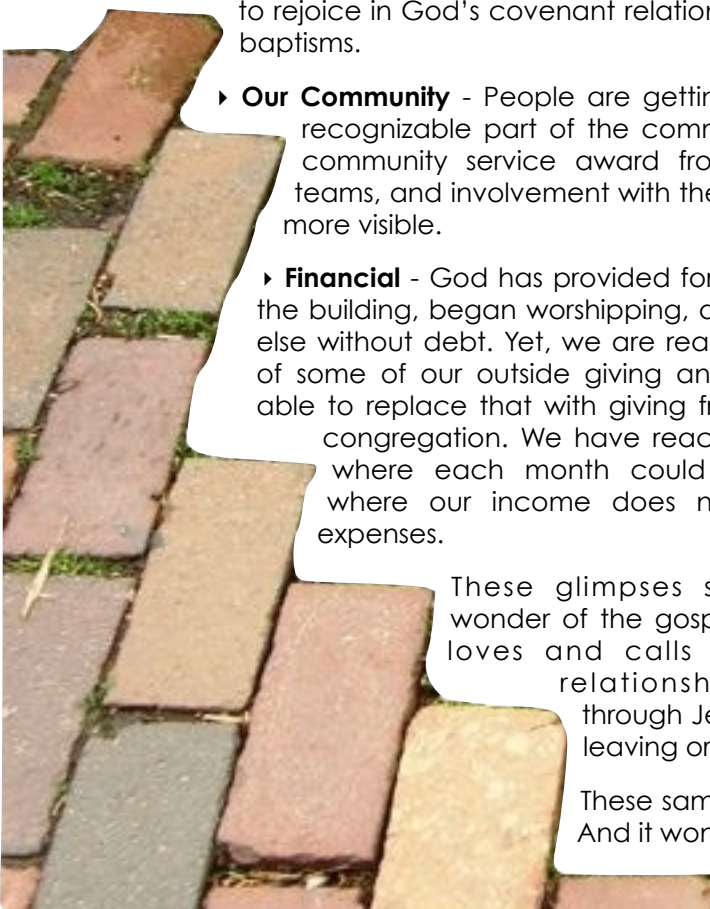
- ▶ **Financial** - God has provided for all we have needed. We opened the building, began worshipping, and everything else without debt. Yet, we are reaching the end of some of our outside giving and are not yet able to replace that with giving from within the congregation. We have reached the point where each month could be the one where our income does not cover our expenses.



These glimpses show us the wonder of the gospel - that God loves and calls people into relationship with him

through Jesus Christ. They show us the nature of his steadfast love in never leaving or forsaking his church. They encourage us that he is at work here.

These same glimpses also show us that our vision requires us to trust in him. And it won't always be easy.



WHO KNOWS?

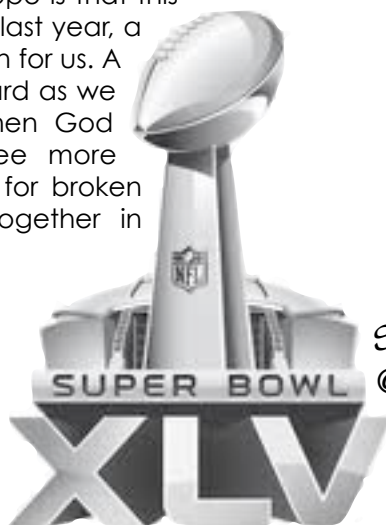
PEERING AHEAD

PER

Even as we look back at the glimpses God has given us over the past year of what our vision looks like in real life, we also peer ahead at what the coming year might bring.

- ▶ **Officers** - We believe God is calling some of the men in our congregation to serve him as officers of the church. These men will lead us as we continue to pursue our vision. Our first step is already underway as we study what we believe in *Who's Afraid of Doctrine?* Monday evenings. Over the next few months we will continue that study and begin looking at what God calls the officers to be and to do culminating in elections. The November newsletter (available online or from the church office) has more details.
- ▶ **Growth** - We look forward to continuing to grow as God draws more people to Free Grace. We long to see this, not just because we need more people to be able to do more and to survive financially, but even more fundamentally because we long to see more people worshipping God through Jesus Christ. To this end we will continue to be active reaching out into the community and inviting people in through our relationships and various events and activities.
- ▶ **Financial** - We need to see growth financially. It takes about \$13,000 a month to cover all our expenses and that is increasing as we heat the building and our rent goes up in April. We need to see our income increase by about \$3000 a month to continue covering our current expenses. We trust God to provide for us as our giving increases through growth and renewed commitment and through new partners from outside of Free Grace.

As we look ahead, my hope is that this coming year is much like last year, a year of great leaps of faith for us. A year that pushes us forward as we trust in God. A year when God gives us glimpses to see more clearly what it looks like for broken people to be bound together in Christ for God's glory.



February 6
4th annual
Super Bowl party
@ the Almquist's

SOME UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

more information on any event can be found on the web site or by contacting the church office

12 Jan

Root Cellar Dinner

We help the Root Cellar as it builds relationships with the people of downtown Lewiston for the gospel by providing and serving a free meal.

15 Jan

Presbytery

Our elders gather with the elders of our sister churches in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

20 Jan

Men's Night

The men gather for food and friends at Grid Iron

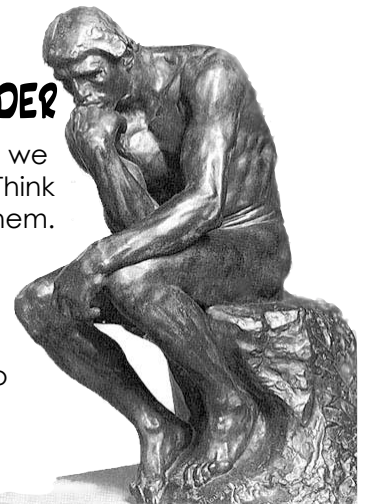
28 Jan

Free Grace Women

The women gather to have dessert, fellowship, and chat about future projects.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Here are some questions we need to ponder together. Think about them. Talk about them. Share your ideas.



What can we do to meet new people and invite them to worship?

What ways can you serve in the church?

How can we use the building more?

How can we use the building to help pay for itself?

CONTACT INFO

160 Canal St
Lewiston, ME 04240

207.513.1355

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.FREEGRACE.US

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

BUT DON'T BOTHER LOOKING ON TWITTER, WE AREN'T THERE