

Broken people. Have you gotten tired of hearing me talk of broken people? We're broken. The people around us are broken. Together we are a broken church full of broken people. Do I sound like a broken record?

On one hand, I hope not. On the other, I kind of hope I do because it means I still have our vision before me. It is where our vision begins, for it expresses our need for God's free grace in Jesus Christ.

## **A Broken Record: Boasting of our Weakness** per

But there is more to our vision than just being broken. We do that well enough on our own. Our vision is to see broken people bound together in Christ: to find the answer for our brokenness in him alone, and to bring others to

that same fountain of hope.

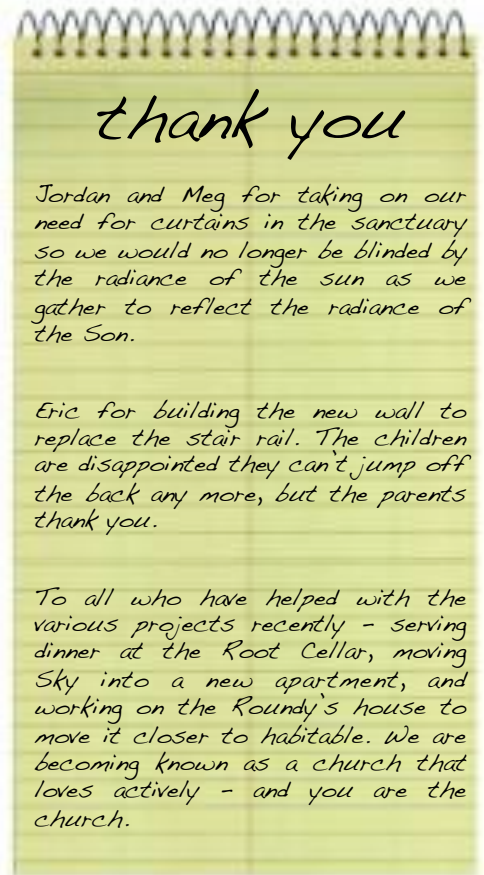
Here is the reason we exist. Here is the rest we find for our weariness. Here is what makes it all worth while - that we are not left alone but bound together with each other in him!

This drives all we do. It is the reason we gathered to work on the Roundy's home, giving them a place to live. It is why we get together Monday evenings to explore what we believe concerning God and what duty he requires of us. It is why the men gather each month at Grid Iron and why the women gathered at Linda's to think through how to care for each other, to grow closer to God, and to invite their friends into relationship with the church.

If we truly believe that we are broken people bound together in Christ for God's glory, then our life together as a church will sometimes be rough. It will see us struggle at times. And it will see us running together to God's promise in Jesus Christ. As we live broken and messy lives together, we proclaim the gospel. As God says through the apostle Paul,

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

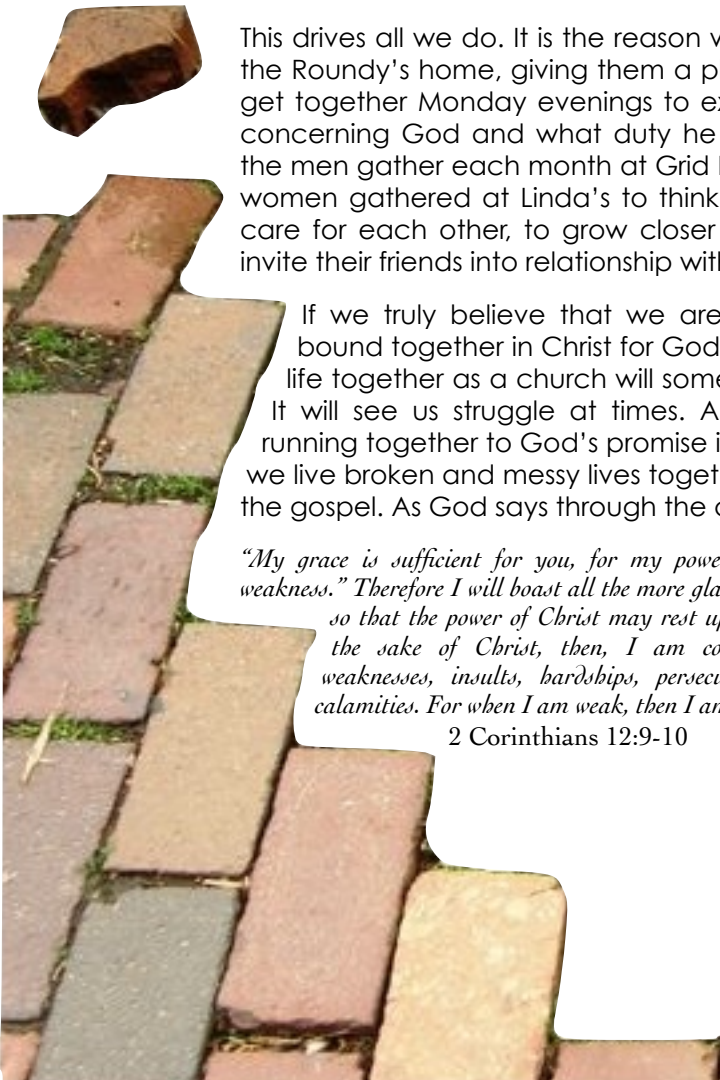
2 Corinthians 12:9-10

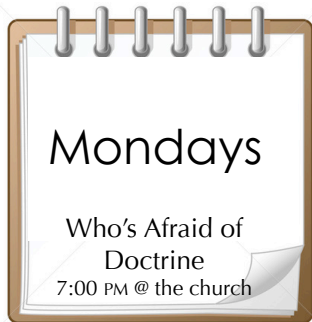
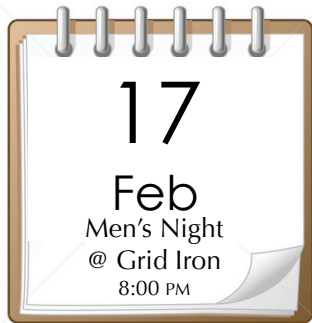


**Celebrating God's Covenant Love**  
The baptism of Judah Paris, Dec 26<sup>th</sup>



**Spreading God's Grace**  
Hard at work at the Roundy's  
Feb 5<sup>th</sup>





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**2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**OCT - DEC 2010** BRUCE DOUGLAS, TREASURER

YTD	
<b>Income</b>	
Members	14,200
Partners	25,400
MNA	30,000
Plate	2,600
Reimb / Refunds	1,400
	<b>\$73,600</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Admin	13,300
Ministry	6,200
Personnel	49,700
Reimbursable	600
	<b>\$69,800</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	
	<b>\$3,800</b>

Free Grace generated positive net income for both the month and the quarter! Free Grace is now generating 23% of revenue internally (member & plate offerings).

Comparing this year's second quarter with the second quarter last year:

- Member giving is up 19%
- Plate giving is up 17%
- Partner giving is down 18%
- MNA giving is down 13%

Resulting in total giving being down 9% verse the same quarter last year.

\*Note that January and February will largely use up the net income through December shown in the chart.

**"...life is ridiculous and unbearably beautiful..."** BETH

When I read these words in a friend's blog, their truth smacked me like a well-placed snowball. I had to read the sentence a few times so it would really sink in. Now, my husband is a great person to talk to. My sons are as understanding as sons can be. At least, they're getting there. But there are times when only another woman can relate to just how ridiculous and beautiful life feels. This is why I believe it is so important for women to gather: that we might care for each other, share one another's burdens, and eat dessert. Right?

Here are some of the ideas the gals at Linda's brainstormed last week:

- staying connected through group emails: prayer requests, coffee requests, you name it & we'll share it... stay tuned as we figure out the best way to go about this.
- coordinating a potluck to celebrate Free Grace's first anniversary (needed: potluck coordinators!)
- a craft day here at the church: a chance to bring crafty friends, or friends that want to be crafty (needed: craft day coordinators!)
- movie night: another chance to bring friends to a chickflickapalooza! Meg is hosting on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

Please remember that your church family is a place to receive help with your burdens, and to help others who are struggling. Speak up when you need a hand, and don't wait to reach out a hand to your sisters in Christ. Let us share together just how ridiculous and beautiful life really is.



To try to lower our heating costs we would like to insulate some of the windows. If you have an hour or two to help put some winter clothes on our building, speak to Per.

\*No prior skill necessary