

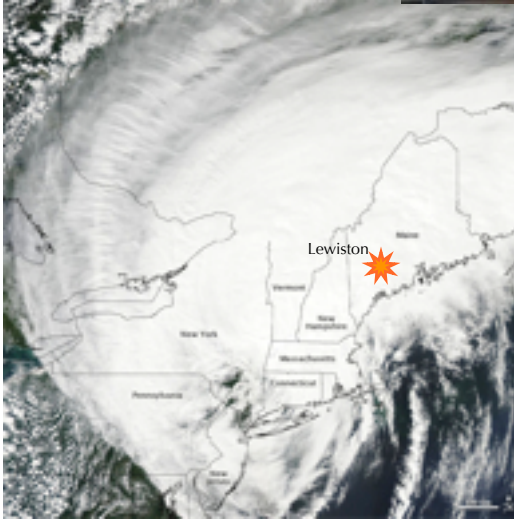
LOOKING

BACK TO THE FUTURE

It has been our habit in January to look back at what God has done at Free Grace during the previous year. We do this to remind ourselves of his goodness and grace to us, and as a way of looking forward at what he is going to do during the coming year. Hence, we take the time now to look back to the future.



We worshipped and worked together. We worked both in continuing to make the building our home with various work days and to reach into the community, such as serving as a venue for the Lewiston-Auburn Film Festival in April.



Of course, the big happening took place on August 28, when, despite Irene visiting with us that day, over 100 people gathered as our first elders were ordained and Free Grace officially became a church.

The year ended with a reminder that we are part of the larger Church as every child in the congregation received a present from our partner church, Bay Presbyterian, in Bonita Springs, FL.



www.freegrace.us



2011 BY THE NUMBERS

average attendance:
December 2010: 39
December 2011: 61

clients seen each week by Jordan's Bridge
compared to 2010: 2x

BACK TO THE FUTURE

THE YEAR TO COME

Having looked back briefly, we look forward to the year to come. How will we continue to pursue our vision in 2012?

broken people bound together in Christ for God's glory

broken people...

We are broken people. We are broken by our sin and by the struggles of life. As we pursue our vision and see God work at Free Grace, we see him changing us, making us stronger as he shows us our weakness, our brokenness, our need. We pursue this as we seek him in our worship, in the study of his word (the preaching, Taking It Deeper, the home groups, and our personal reading of Scripture), our times of prayer, our reaching out in mercy to help each other, and the list goes on. In this coming year, we seek to strengthen these opportunities, making them more useful and more accessible. We also are looking to multiply the opportunities, to touch new areas of our lives with the power of his gospel.

bound together in Christ...

But it is not just about us. The broken people we speak of live all around us: our family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates — in fact, each and every person in our community is broken. The only thing that give any of us peace, joy, hope, community,... is God's grace to us in the person of Jesus Christ. We long to see more people worshipping God. We long to see more find the answer to life. We pursue this as we continue to proclaim God's free grace in Christ to our community in word and deed. To this end: we will again participate in the LA Film Festival; we are again working on the community work day in conjunction with other churches; we continue to partner with the Root Cellar; several members are going on the mission trip to Haiti; we are pursuing having a missions team join us again this summer; we are looking into bringing the our sermons on to the public access station in some format; and we continue to look for other ways to bring the community into contact with both the gospel and Free Grace.

for God's glory

This is what it all comes down to, why we do all of these things. As we pursue our vision, as we pray for God to do all that is written above, that we would have the resources financial and otherwise to do all of it, we know it is not about us — individually or as a church. It is about God. So, as we pray for this, we pray ultimately that our community will see God through us and glorify him.

My prayer this is year is the same as last — that it would be a year when we see God working in us and through us, giving us clearer glimpses of what it looks like to be broken people bound together in Christ for God's glory.



160 Canal St
Lewiston, ME 04240

207.513.1355

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|  | Wednesdays, 7:00 PM <i>Taking the sermon deeper together.</i> |
| MEN'S NIGHT January 19, 8:00 PM |  |
|  | 2 nd & 4 th Sundays |
|  | Work Day @ <i>the root cellar</i> January 28 |

Join the Church; Change the World

by Ken

“Don't tell me how to worship God. My faith is between me and God, and yours is between you and God. You have no right to butt into my relationship with God.”

I wish I had a dollar for every time I have heard this. It's an error that, unfortunately, seems prevalent in our society whenever discussions of church membership arise. In his book, *The Church*, Edmund Clowney writes, “Christians are not just born-again individuals, they are a family, ‘spiritual ethnics’, the new people of God in Christ. To forget this is to undercut the practice of brotherhood in all the dimensions of daily life.”

Clowney touches on one major reason for joining the church, that of brotherhood, or family. Christ does not save individuals “in a vacuum.” He saves people into a family of like-minded believers, a chosen people called to worship the one triune God...

read the rest of Ken's article at www.freegrace.us/articles

How to Give

Checks may be made out to **Free Grace** and sent to the church.
Or you can give online. Instructions can be found at: <http://www.freegrace.us/give>