



Shepherding your child's heart

Parenting might be the toughest job in the world. Every age has different issues, different responses, different struggles — and children grow faster than you can figure out the answers. On top of that, every child is different, so no matter how many you have, you still never have the answers for the next one. This can add up to leaving us feeling inadequate, overwhelmed, and unsure how to make it through the day, much less raise our children to know and love God.



If you are like me, you long to be a different kind of parent: one who displays the grace of God in your parenting instead of the frustration of the moment. You long to see your children grow up in wisdom and in stature (as Scripture says of Samuel), growing deeper in their love of God. And, of course, you long for your children to be polite and well-behaved.

The question is, how do we do that? The answer lies in how we view parenting. As long as parenting is about behavior, we might get behavior. But if what we truly want is a heart centered on God and his grace, we have to address the heart and not just the behavior.

When we shepherd our children's hearts, we show them their need for God's grace. We show them the greatness, the goodness, and the glory of God. When we shepherd their hearts, we bring them to Christ.

How do we approach parenting this way? How do we shepherd their hearts? How do we answer this, not just theoretically, but practically, dealing with the specific questions we wrestle with daily: how to discipline, how to teach them to worship, what about schooling, or potty training, or finding time for ourselves, or ... , or ... , or ...?

Beth and I are opening our home to invite any parents who struggle with these questions to join us to wrestle through them together. Our thought is to gather each month to tackle a topic together: sharing our experiences and struggles, supporting one other, and commiserating together. Interested in knowing more? Talk to me or Beth.



www.freegrace.us



per
This child-free time will be happening:
Saturday, March 31
9:00 - 10:30
If you need child care, please let Linda know.

Quarterly Financial Observations

Bruce Douglass, Church Treasurer

NOTE: This was due to be included in the February newsletter which never appeared.

Negative net income in December is attributable to two events

- A one time compensation adjustment to make pastoral compensation whole for an earlier deficit;
- Weak member giving in December.

Our second quarter net income was positively impacted by a \$2,500 one time gift by a member family.

Jordan's Bridge recorded its best month for counseling revenue in December!

July - December 2011	
Income	
Local	\$26,500
Partners	\$34,900
MNA	\$35,400
Reimb / Refunds	\$1,500
	\$98,300
Expenses	
Admin	\$19,000
Ministry	\$8,900
Personnel	\$51,900
Reimbursable	\$600
	\$80,400
Net Income	\$17,900

The MNA funding for Linda will be exhausted in a couple of months. Given the church's current store of financial resources this is not a serious concern, however it reflects the need to continue;

1. Being good stewards of the church's existing resources.
2. Encouraging congregational stewardship and a spirit of giving.
3. Seeking congregational growth.
4. Maintaining and developing external relationships.

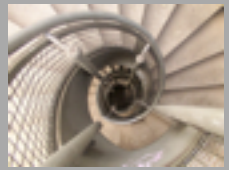
WE'RE TOO BUSY NOT TO PRAY
FAMILY PRAYER
 March 4, 6:00 PM

Women's Fellowship
 prayer & fellowship
 RSVP to Elaine or Ruth
 March 8, 6:30 PM

MEN'S NIGHT
 March 15, 8:00 PM



 **Taking Church Beyond the Walls**
come serve dinner to our neighbors
 March 29, 5:30 - 7:00

Shepherding your child's heart
 March 31 9:00 - 10:30

Taking It Deeper
 Wednesdays, 7:00 PM
Taking the sermon deeper together.


 **Home Groups** 2nd & 4th Sundays

ONLY YOU CAN HELP WITH SUNDAY CLEAN UP



- We need folks to help clean up each Sunday. You can help every week or once a month. Talk to Linda!
- We can all help by being more aware of how we leave the church on Sunday. If you see trash, a spill, crumbs, please take a moment and take care of it.

The Most Common Problem

by Ken

“When working with couples, what is the one problem you encounter most often?” That’s a question periodically posed to me in social settings, and it’s an easy question to answer.

With almost every couple I see, “thinking and speaking” on one another’s behalf nearly always arises. You know what that’s like, just when you’re ready to answer a question someone, usually your spouse, answers for you. Or, worse yet, someone tells you directly what “you think.” You know this is happening when someone begins saying to you, “You think...” How does that person know what you think if you haven’t told them? This behavior is not only disrespectful, but it’s a serious detriment to good communication in any relationship.

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

Questions ? Commentaires ?
Contactez-nous !

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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>