



Update from Tracy and Renee Haines

Assisting Grace Community Church in Chestertown, MD
A Bible Fellowship Church Plant

GCChestertown.org

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Greetings Friends and Supporters!

On May 12th we celebrated our one year anniversary of living in Chestertown. It was on that day we sold our house in Westminster and moved to 509 N. Kent St. in Chestertown! The beautiful flowers blooming in our yard reminds me of the Apostle Paul uses planting and growing to explain how God grows his Kingdom on this Earth. In 1 Corinthians 3:6 Paul writes, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow."

In the last year we have done lots of work planting Grace Community Church in Chestertown. We have seen some growth but other times felt discouraged and had to rest on the truth that God will make things grow in His time. Unlike trees, flowers and vegetables, planting a church does not have a set schedule. It takes an average

of seven years to fully plant a church. A church that is fully planted has "graduated." This means it has its own leadership, it can support itself financially and there are enough committed members for it to continue to do ministry. Currently our church plant in Chestertown borrows pastors and elders from other Bible Fellowship churches that are reasonably close. Grace Community Church started six years ago with about 10 people and grew to over 40. But because of Covid many regular attenders never came back. Since the "end" of Covid our attendance is back to 40 once again, so in reality we are really only three or four years into planting this church.

Renee and I are still in need of financial support and will continue to need it for at least two more years. Although our monthly donors have increased, the number of one time givers has almost totally dried up since last year. As you follow the Lord would you consider supporting our ministry for the next two years?



Renee and I have had many opportunities to share the love of Christ in Chestertown:

- Recently I was able to share the gospel at a memorial service at our church. Darius had been attending our church for over 6 months but passed away. Over 80 people from the local community attended and heard the gospel.
- On February 17 I spoke at Washington College's Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship gathering on the necessity of the Apostles' teaching for the church. We hope to do more ministry among the students of this college in the coming years.
- Pastor James Reff and I have been preaching through the book of Acts. You can watch the sermons on our Facebook page. I'm also teaching a Sunday School class on the book "Pilgrim's Progress" and teaching a series on Wednesday night on the Prophets.
- On Wednesday nights, Renee has been team teaching elementary school age kids on the attributes of God. Even though this is new to her, she has done quite well and this is testimony to her modeling Christ's servant heart. Renee has also been vital in hospitality to countless people that have come to our house for dinner and on Tuesdays when we host a Gospel of John Study. Two months ago she also started a new part time job at a local thrift store on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
- Our church had a booth at The Chestertown Tea Party celebration. This two day event draws big crowds and we were able to meet many people and share the gospel through our riddle board.
- I will begin an outreach in a lower income community. I sense a spiritual hunger among the people there.
- When the weather is good we usually have a group of kids playing basketball at the hoop our church has in the parking lot. I am currently investigating the idea of having a 3 on 3 tournament for this group and possibly networking with another church to pull it off.



Please Pray...

- 1. For increased financial support**
- 2. For healing for our health issues**
- 3. For growth and maturity of Grace Community Church especially in leadership**
- 4. For upcoming outreach events in the lower income areas and in a basketball tournament with kids**

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by check to Church Extension Ministries, PO Box 3534, Allentown PA 18106**