

THE POINT

SEPTEMBER 2018



THE PASTOR'S CORNER



This past June, thirteen of our Celebrate Recovery members attended the East Coast CR National Summit held in Nashville. We attended a lot of great workshops and training sessions. One of these that had the biggest effect on me, and I have heard the most comments on, was given on the opioid epidemic in America. It is being referred to as the worst man-made epidemic in US history. The US is approaching a staggering 140 deaths a day due to overdoses from opioids.

Our speaker was from West Virginia, the state that leads the nation in deaths due to opioids. He used as his phrase to just save 'One More.' Pastor Ernie's message this past Sunday reminded me of how important just 'One' is to God and it should be to us as Christians. After getting home from the Summit in June, I did some research on the subject and learned that 12 states have more prescriptions than people. Much to my surprise our great state of Alabama leads the nation in opioid prescriptions per capita. In 2013, we had almost 113 prescriptions per 100 people. Our attorney general announced two months ago that Alabama is still #1. In 2002, there were close to 12,000 deaths due to opioid overdose; in 2016 there were over 60,000.

Just recently another of our Montgomery doctors was arrested for allegedly running a 'pill mill'. The opioid epidemic is alive and thriving in our community. The large pharmaceutical companies deceived the physicians with a mass marketing campaign for these pain drugs. They marketed and misrepresented these drugs as being highly effective for pain, safe, and non-addictive. This marketing along with a national concern to take patient pain seriously, physicians were convinced they had finally found an effective and safe way to treat their patients. Physicians have freely and willingly prescribed these drugs. Only in the last few years have we become aware that opioids are highly addictive. When prescriptions expired or became more difficult to obtain, many were addicted and unable to go without, and they were forced to turn to cheaper and easier obtainable illegal drugs. Studies have shown that 80% of heroin users began with prescription drugs. Heroin is a man-made drug.

One way I know we can help, is to educate ourselves and be aware of what we and our loved ones are being prescribed, and also to know what drugs can be addictive. We in CR want to help our community fight this crisis. We are in the process of training and educating ourselves on opioids, their use, and treatments available.

I encourage you to join us in education and awareness of this crisis in our country, state, and community. This is a real epidemic, and it is all over our community and neighborhoods! God has laid it on my heart that we need to do what we can to bring awareness, and be on guard in this war against mankind that Satan has launched against the world, and our families. I am sure there are many of you who have been affected by these drugs, and know much more than I do about them.

Please join with us in Celebrate Recovery to educate ourselves and commit to help in any way that God allows us. Thank you for letting me share. Gwin Greathouse, CR Pastor

Weekly Worship Services

Sunday

Sunday Small Groups

9:00 AM | Various

Worship Service

10:00 AM | Sanctuary

Tuesday

Celebrate Recovery

6:00 PM | Various

Wednesday

Children's Ministry

6:15 PM | Fellowship Hall

Student Ministry

6:15 PM | Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study

6:30 PM | Sanctuary

LADIES RETREAT



Our annual Women's retreat will include Girl's Night Out Dance Party Friday night and special guest and author Elizabeth Mahusay. \$40 for the weekend including lunch on

Saturday (non-refundable \$20 due at sign up). Sign up is open on the website: <http://www.gracepoint.info/womens-ministry/>

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS

Sunday, October 28 is our next membership class. If you are interested in joining GPCC or have questions about the process, simply email info@gracepoint.info

BAPTISM SERVICE

Sunday, November 4th is our next baptism service. If you are interested in being baptized or have questions about the process, simply email info@gracepoint.info

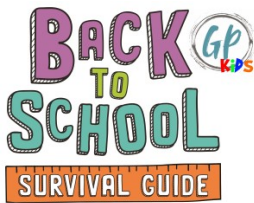
GRACE POINT NEW SUNDAY MORNING SMALL GROUP

Are you ready to get "REAL"? On September 16th Grace Point will be launching a new Sunday School class appropriately named "The REAL." Our Small Group will meet in the back of the Sanctuary.

Are you tired of feeling all alone and like you are being attacked in this world? Do you long for a deeper relationship with Christ and desire to discover the REAL plan God has for your life. Maybe you have found that Sunday Service is just not enough in your pursuit of Christ or you wonder why you are struggling to find God in your life. Perhaps you want to connect with others to help you deal with the bumps in the road life is throwing at you. If you are ready for the challenge of taking an active role in your walk with Christ and to experience the love of our Lord and Savior, then it's time to get REAL!

Join us Sunday, September 16th if you have got what it takes to get REAL!

GPCC KID'S CHURCH - NEW 8 WEEK FALL SERIES, "BACK TO SCHOOL SURVIVOR GUIDE"



During this series, kids will learn how to make this school year the best ever as they see how to listen and hold on to instruction.

Memory Verse: "Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life." Proverbs 4:13 (NIV)

SERIES OUTLINE:

Week	Need to Know	Bible Lesson	Scripture
1	Make New Friends	A Party at Matthew's	Matthew 9:9-13
2	Stick Together	Jesus Call His Disciples	Matthew 4:18-22
3	Good News is Good to Share	Philip & the Ethiopian	Acts 8:26-40
4	Be Who God Made You to Be	Spiritual Gifts	1 Corinthians 12
5	Give Your Best, Nothing Less	The Widow's Offering	Mark 12:41-44
6	See a Need, Meet a Need	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
7	Take Care of What You've Got	A Little and a Lot	Luke 16:1-3, 16:10-12
8	Show Love in Everything You Do	Mary Shows Love to Jesus	Matthew 26:6-12

MEN'S MINISTRY

Community Service—Our men will be serving at the Wetumpka Food Pantry the first Saturday of each month from 8:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. We hope to have enough teams so that each team only serves 3 or so times a year.

Men, mark your calendars. Men's breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. **September 30th**. We enjoy food and fellowship as well as plan future service projects in the Community as well as at the church.

If you need a ride to any men's event, have suggestions on where we can serve at GPCC or in the community or have ideas for Men's Ministry events for fun and fellowship, contact Jim Ray at 256-749-0069 or email him jimray1947@gmail.com.

If you are not receiving emails from Jim Ray regarding upcoming men's ministry events, send him an email at jimray@rayconsultingllc.net. We want all our men plugged in at GPCC!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women In God's Service (WINGS) will be meeting in the home of Kristina Garr on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month at 9:30 am. We will begin our study in the book of 1 Peter.

It will be a great time of fellowship, while studying God's Word! For more information, please contact Kristina Garr at 970-589-3594.

CHILD PROTECT CLASS

Grace Point's children/student ministry leaders are always in need of volunteers. To work with our children, you are required to take the Child Protect Class offered the first Wednesday evening of each month. Please prayerfully consider serving in this area. We need help on Sundays/Tuesday/Wednesday. See Jason Lantz to sign up for the class. To inquire about how you can serve our children, see Melissa Greathouse (nursery), Jason LaVigne (children), Phillip McGuire (Youth).

GRACE POINT STUDENTS

Keep up-to-date on the numerous Youth Events on via our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/JessesTree/>

MINISTRY CONTACT INFORMATION

Senior Pastor:

Ernie Willis: pastor@gracepoint.info
205-370-0032

Worship Pastor:

Mike Ray: mike@gracepoint.info

Children's Pastor:

Jason LaVigne: jason@gracepoint.info

Youth Pastor:

Phillip McGuire: phillip@gracepoint.info

Celebrate Recovery Pastor:

Gwin Greathouse: cr@gracepoint.info
334-398-3113

Leadership Team:

Don Galbreath, Chair: dgalbreath@gracepoint.info

SUNDAY MORNING SMALL GROUPS

Maranatha—Hud and Jennifer Abrams

The Vine—Paul and Brenda Thornton

Cornerstone—Byron and Pam Beasley

Young Marrieds—Pastor Ernie and Michele Willis

Real—Matty and Kristina Garr

Youth—Phillip McGuire

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Do you have ministry information to share? Here is how to get it done! Send all promo information to:

announcements@gracepoint.info This will allow your information to be included in both the Worship Guide and our monthly newsletter.

Any information you want publicized via our social media platforms (FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter) please send the info and a graphic (if you have one) for the event to info@gracepoint.info or pastor@gracepoint.info

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH-WIDE

September 5—Child Protect Class

September 16 —Real Sunday Small Group Begins

October 28—New Member's Class

November 4 —Baptism Service

MEN'S MINISTRY

September 1 —Wetumpka Food Pantry

September 30 —Men's Breakfast

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

October 26-27—Annual Retreat

YOUTH MINISTRY

September 12—Motion

October 6—Motion

CHILDREN MINISTRY

Kid's Back to School Survival Series