



GRACE NOTES

September 2016



STEPPING UP A CALL TO COURAGEOUS MANHOOD

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

meeting at GBF

STEPPING UP

TUESDAYS, 6 - 7 AM

MONDAYS @ 7 PM

The study includes a workbook that is not required, but will be helpful.

Order one on Amazon [here](#) or from Lifeway [here](#).

Lifeway in Sherman 903-813-4674 may have a copy available in the store.

Fall 2016 GraceGroups will begin meeting this month! A GraceGroup is a small group of people, meeting in a home on a regular basis, for the purpose of authentic community and spiritual growth.

GRACE groups

If you are interested in joining a GraceGroup, please email lara@thegbf.com.

If you are interested in leading a GraceGroup, please fill out the application at this link:

<http://thegbf.com/grace-group-leader-application/>

We are updating GBF contact information. Please click the link below to provide your current address, phone number and email to stay up to date on everything going on at church. If you experience problems or have questions, please contact lara@thegbf.com.



<http://thegbf.com/update-my-information/>

Our Beloved Kris



Kristine Kay Roberts, 61, passed away and went to be with the Lord while surrounded by her family on Saturday, August 6, 2016, after a courageous four-year battle with cancer.

I've never met a more servant-hearted, gracious, wise woman than Kris Roberts. We have every reason to mourn as we have lost her, but we also have every reason to celebrate an extraordinary life well lived. Hers is a life so servant-hearted and selfless that it can only be explained by her relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Kris Roberts viewed life through the lens of God's grace, and she graced all of us with her presence. Kris expressed her love for others at every turn. She loved even more than she could show. She loved with God's love, and that's never on short supply. She didn't run out of love, she just ran out of time to show it. But, she's in eternity now, where she continues to love us, and she'll never run out of time. She still loves you and me. By faith in Jesus, we can join her one day, but until then she's given us a wonderful example of how to live a life that can only be explained by God's great love. - Pastor Roy Layman

*Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his saints.
Psalms 116:15*

The GBF family extends sincere sympathy to Gane, Katie, Andy and Hannah. We love you all very much.

A scholarship fund has been established in Kris's name. Donations can be made to:
Kris Roberts Memorial Fund, 921 N. 8th St., Gunter, Texas 75058.



**First Elder-led Prayer Meeting
Wednesday, August 17**



JACOB HALE



ALEX HALE



JONAH FERGUSON



Baptism

SYDNEY WRIGHT



TYLER BUYSSE



CASSIDY AHLMEYER



JACE MARTIN



LILLY MARTIN



KIER BOWER





The GBF men are headed back to Straight Arrow on Lake Texoma for our annual men's retreat October 28-30. We'll start on Friday night and then finish up back at GBF for worship on Sunday morning. The details are still being finalized but look for the registration info soon! This is a much needed time to get together with brothers and let our hair down...if you still have any left. We're going to be challenged by the truth of God's Word, build some relationships, and have fun doing it! If you have questions or want to serve with the prep team, you can call or text Jon Stovall at 469-323-2393 or email men@thegbf.com.

The Key to Managing Your Money...(Hint: It's Not Yours)

Pastor Roy's most helpful book on gaining an eternal perspective regarding finances is a short book by Randy Alcorn titled [The Treasure Principle](#). If you view the 10 minute video <https://vimeo.com/177147947>, and read the 'Six Keys To Understanding The Treasure Principle' below, you'll have a good idea of the teaching in the book.

The Treasure Principle: **You can't take it with you, but... you can send it on ahead.**

"Store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven." —Jesus, [Matthew 6:20](#)

THE SIX KEYS:

1. **God owns everything; I'm His money manager.** We are the managers of the assets God has entrusted - not given - to us.
2. **My heart always goes where I put God's money.** Watch what happens when you reallocate your money from temporal things to eternal things.
3. **Heaven - the New Earth, not the present one - is my home.** We are citizens of "a better country – a heavenly one." [Hebrews 11:16](#)
4. **I should live today not for the dot, but for the line.** From the dot - our present life on earth - extends a line that goes on forever, which is eternity in Heaven.
5. **Giving is the only antidote to Materialism.** Giving is a joyful surrender to a greater person and a greater agenda. It dethrones me and exalts Him.
6. **God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.** God gives us more money than we need so we can give - generously.



India Missions

(Left to Right): Pastor Roy Layman, Casey Layman, Shelby Garner, Paige Garner, Price Ferrell and Quinten Layman recently shared about their trip to South Central India. The group, which also included Reagan Reed, went to India for two weeks in August serving the Bangalore Baptist Hospital and its community.

When Should My Child Participate In The Lord's Supper?

By Roy Layman

Pastor and author John MacArthur once shared a story from his childhood when his dad told him "Son, we are going to take The Lord's Supper and we'd like for you to participate." The young John MacArthur said "Well, I hope they're not having peas!" This prompted his dad to have John wait a while before he participated in the ordinance of The Lord's Supper!

Children need to have an understanding of The Lord's Supper before participating in it. The question is, at what age do they understand? There is no "age of accountability" or explicit age given in the Bible. So when does a "childlike faith" become "saving faith"? It varies from child to child based on several factors including how much teaching on the subject the child has been exposed to, their rate of maturity, and most important - the work of the Holy Spirit revealing spiritual truth in their lives.

Ultimately, the decision of when the time is right is up to the parents of a child. Parents know their children best, and are responsible for teaching their kids the truth of God's Word (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Parents should approach this decision thoughtfully and prayerfully.

Here are some important things for parents to keep in mind when determining if the time is right for their children to participate:

- Has your child made a convincing profession of faith in Jesus Christ?
- Do you see a love for God and the desire to follow and obey Jesus in their life?

- Does the child understand and can they explain, to some degree, the significance of The Lord's Supper?

It's not something to rush into. The Lord's Supper doesn't grant them salvation or gain them special favor with God. It's a way to, by symbolism, remember and celebrate the work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Waiting until a child has a better understanding can likely add to the significance of them participating when the time is right.

It's also not something to delay too long. The Lord's Supper is a starting point, not something to be strived for and achieved. As Christians, we'll spend the rest of our lives gaining a deeper understanding of The Lord's Supper. Children shouldn't be expected to know it all, but rather a working understanding of the basics.

In our family, we waited until our children were baptized. This seemed like a natural time, and made sense to our kids. When they had grasped the gospel, and made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ through baptism, they could also articulate the significance of The Lord's Supper and participate. This has happened at different ages for each of my kids. The youngest being 7 years old.

When you feel like the time has come for your child to participate, you might find this article to be a helpful tool. Also, consider discussing the following passages of Scripture with your child:

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
- Luke 22:14-23
- Mathew 26:26-29

The following article has been taken from Pastor Roy's blog, <https://roylayman.wordpress.com/>

Some thoughts on Christians and alcohol...

I'm not a "tea-totaller" which means I don't practice complete and total abstinence from alcohol, but I'm pretty darn close. The number of alcoholic beverages I've had in the last 10 years is not too many more than the number of champagne "toasts" I've participated in at weddings. That's not a boast about how strong I am in the face of temptation, quite the opposite actually. I'm weak. I proved at an early age and into adulthood that I was not responsible with alcohol. So for me, due to my own limitations and weakness, social drinking, outside of a controlled accountable environment in limited quantity, is not going to be something I do.

I do however have friends, some who serve as leaders in our church, who do drink regularly, responsibly. I respect that. And I respect them. I may not please some people with my positions on alcohol consumption because I intentionally try not to go to either extreme. I won't, as some do, condemn everyone who has a drink. It's just not biblical, right or necessary. Nor will I ignore the clarity from Scripture regarding drunkenness, or the clear dangers associated with alcohol abuse. I've seen too many lives lost, homes wrecked, and have experienced firsthand the consequences of being irresponsible with alcohol. I want to be able to help people who struggle in this area, not be a stumbling block. Also, I can't condone unlawful underage drinking because Romans 13 teaches to "submit to governing authorities" (and don't young people have enough challenges and pressures without adding the potential of an addiction to their lives before the age of 21?)

Also, and this is just a practical, personal thing/added bonus--Drinking is expensive! HA. Think how much money I've saved at ballparks, stadiums, and restaurants??? I'm not trying to be a hater, your money, is yours and if you're doing it responsibly, it's your thing, enjoy! But when I waste money it's on important things...like fishing lures and other tackle! :) One more, ever since about 35 years old, I've had to watch what my calorie intake because my metabolism is no longer like that of a gnat! I heard early on "don't drink your calories." I'm tall and have less muscle than a canned ham, so I hide weight gain pretty well, but I've got a feeling if I did drink regularly, even responsibly, I'd get unhealthy quick and start to looking like a snake who swallowed an egg! No thank you, I'm saving my calorie intake for BLUE BELL, Whataburger, and of course, the occasional Dr. Pepper!

Anyway, I say all this to share a post with you that I shared with some college students regarding Christians and alcohol consumption. The post is written by **Pastor Kevin DeYoung** who I really respect, and is titled 'CHRIST DID NOT DIE FOR YOU TO DO KEG STANDS.' It is written with college students in mind, but offers balanced biblical wisdom for everyone who's thinking through this subject. Please take a few moments and check it out: <https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/kevindeyoung/2014/08/26/christ-and-keg-stands/>

Christ Did Not Die for You to Do Keg Stands

With most major colleges getting whipped into a full frenzy, I thought it would be worthwhile to dust off a few thoughts about binge drinking on our nation's campuses.

Most

students won't have to look hard for opportunities to drink over the next days and weeks (and months and semesters). They may have to go somewhere off campus to party, but the party scene comes recruiting right to them. Some students arrive at college looking to make their Party U dreams come true. Others just find themselves all alone and eager to fit in and make friends. The sad reality is that choices made in the first weeks (or even days) of college can set a trajectory that's hard to break.

Which means churches and Christian groups must bend over backward to meet, greet, invite, and include. It also means churches must be ready to winsomely and courageously confront the university lifestyle when it is inconsistent with Christian commitment. Many professing

Christians will live duplicitous lives—getting smashed on the weekends while still trying to be the good Christian boy or girl their parents and ministry friends imagine them to be. The problem is huge and anyone wishing to minister to college students needs to think about a biblical approach.

Here are a few suggestions on how to begin formulating a Christian response to drinking on our college campuses.

1. Know what you're up against. Like a good AA course, the first step is admitting we have a problem. Binge drinking is so bad that when researchers tried using Breathalyzers at parties and bars it only encouraged students to drink more. No matter how many bad consequences are put in front of students—drunk driving, addictions, unwanted sexual intercourse, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, decreased performance in school—they don't offset the two perceived benefits of drinking: it's liberating and a good excuse.

Continued on page 7.

Continued from page 6.

Students thinking of alcohol as “liquid courage.” It makes them more fun, more adventurous, less tied to inhibitions. On the latter, drinking is seen as a convenient way of avoiding personal responsibility. The sober girl who hooks up with a complete stranger might be considered a slut. But if she’s drunk, then it’s not really a mark on her character; she just had a few too many. Likewise, many students feel justified if they miss class or perform poorly because of a hangover. No matter what people tell them about the possible dangers of drinking, getting drunk for many college students, is the best way to have fun. And whatever negative consequences may come, these are thought to reflect on the alcohol not on the individual.

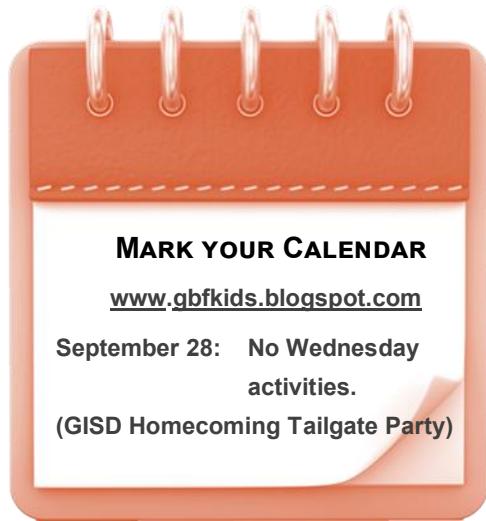
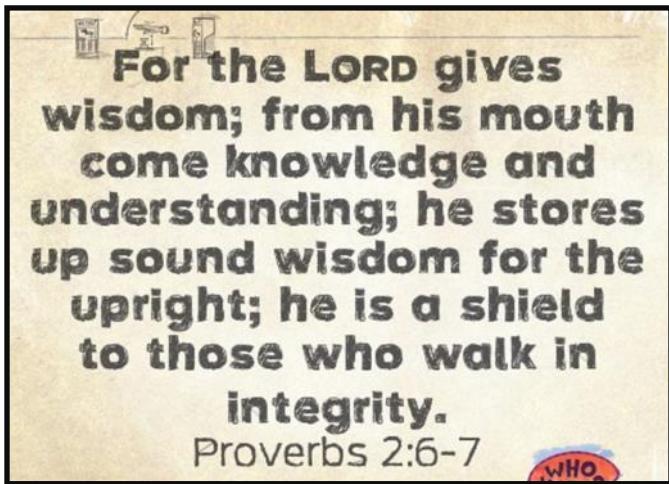
Take almost any college in the country, especially the big state schools, and I can just about guarantee that the biggest obstacle to Christian discipleship is not Richard Dawkins or Bart Ehrman or all the heady objections to Christianity that our apologetics are meant to counter. We need apologetics. I’m 100% for taking every thought captive to Christ. But for most 17-22 year-olds the most common temptations to sin are alcohol and sex. Even when there are intellectual objections to Christianity, these are often just cover for a debauched lifestyle. Tens of thousands of college students will walk away from the church this year, or never give it a chance, because their main goal each week is to get smashed and hook up. Rare is the campus ministry that needs to talk about Derrida more than drunkenness.

2. Demonstrate a mature attitude toward alcohol. Some Christians go farther than Scripture in condemning alcohol. The Bible celebrates wine as a gift from God (Isa. 55:1; John 2:9) and good for your stomach (1 Timothy 5:23). I’m not convinced that the Lord’s Supper was strictly the unfermented stuff (1 Cor. 11:21). But let’s not trade one overreach for another. Christians who enjoy good gift of wine or beer need to grow up at times. Christian upperclassmen (and other adults) who can drink legally should be careful with alcohol consumption around underage believers. They should not talk about beer like it’s the coolest thing since Don Draper. If you think not drinking gets you closer to God, get a better reading of Scripture. If you think drinking gets you closer to relevance, get a better understanding of ministry. Christian liberty is no reason for social life and conversation to revolve around the conspicuous consumption of alcohol.

3. Be boldly biblical. There is good wisdom in admonishing sinners by presenting the negative consequences of sin. “You reap what you sow” is how the Bible puts it. So it’s appropriate to warn binge drinkers of STD’s and addictions and DUI’s and scrambling your brains on a car antenna (I won’t go into details, but it was the most disturbing story I heard while I was in college). And yet, the Bible doesn’t just say, “Stop getting drunk because it will hurt you.” It also says, “Stop getting drunk because God hates it.” Drunkards do not inherit the kingdom of heaven (1 Cor. 6:10). Drunkards do not belong in the church’s fellowship (1 Cor. 5:11). Of course, there is forgiveness for the sin of drunkenness. But the Bible repeatedly rebukes those who seek after this sin. Woe to those who run after strong drink, Isaiah says (5:11). Do not get drunk, is Paul’s command (Eph. 5:18). This is what God has to say about the tradition of partying every weekend while in college: “Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires” (Rom. 13:13-14).

4. Show tough love. There’s a fine line between caring for your drunken friend (who may legitimately hurt himself or others) and enabling sin. Don’t let friends drink and drive and don’t let friends crack their skulls open (I saw people come close in college). But don’t feel sorry for the weekend warriors. Don’t pick up all their messes or remove all their consequences. This line from a 2011 *USA Today* article has stuck with me: “The campus environment provides so much social support that even when students have bad experiences drinking, the help they get from friends afterward is seen as a positive.” If you are interested in real community, take a risk and show some tough love.

5. Remind the Christians who they are. I realize that many of the binge drinkers have nothing to do with Christianity. But in many parts of the country, the average college student claims some Christian affiliation. Press home their profession of Christ. Tell them what it means to be a new creation. Help them see who they are in Christ. Show them that because they are joined to Christ they take Christ with them to get hammered and get in bed with someone. Teach them again all the good news of Christ crucified for sinners and Christ raised for newness of life. Then implore them to live as if they actually believed what they say they believe.



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SEPTEMBER GRACE KIDS

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where does wisdom come from?

Wisdom comes from God through His Word. Solomon Asked for Wisdom

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 2:1-4,10-12; 3:1-15

MAIN POINT: Solomon asked God for wisdom to lead God's people.

KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 2:6-7 Wisdom for God's People

BIBLE PASSAGE: Proverbs 1:1-7; 3:1-12; 4:10-19

MAIN POINT: Wisdom is fearing the Lord and obeying His Word.

KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 2:6-7 Solomon Built the Temple

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 6-8

MAIN POINT: God chose Solomon to build a temple where He would dwell with His people.

KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 2:6-7 Solomon's Sin Divided the Kingdom

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Kings 11-12

MAIN POINT: God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned.

KEY PASSAGE: Proverbs 2:6-7

Volunteers are needed in the children's ministry.
Please email Alicia@thegbf.com for more information.

GRACE KIDS
SMALL GROUP LEADERS FOR
SEPTEMBER

PreK/Kindergarten: Hailey Baird
1st/2nd Grade: Shelley Baird, Ansley Baird
3rd/4th Grade: Carrie Saindon, Gabe Turner

Children's Ministry



Children who have been attending Grace Kids this summer recited their first 10 catechisms during the service on August 28. They will now begin learning 1-15 listed below.

CATECHISMS 1 - 15

Catechism: a summary of the principles of Christianity in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians.

1. **Who made you?** God
2. **What else did God make?** God made all things.
3. **Why did God make you and all things?** For His own glory.
4. **How can you glorify God?** By loving Him and doing what He commands.
5. **Why ought you to glorify God?** Because He made me and takes care of me.
6. **Is there more than One True God?** No, there is only One True God.
7. **In How many persons does this one God exist?** In 3 persons.
8. **Name these 3 persons.** The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
9. **What is God?** God is a spirit and does not have a body like men.
10. **Where is God?** God is Everywhere.
11. **Can you see God?** No. I cannot see God, but he always sees me.
12. **Does God know all things?** Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God
13. **Can God do all things?** Yes. God can do all His holy will.
14. **Where do you learn how to love and obey God?** In the Bible alone.
15. **Who wrote the Bible?** Holy men who were taught by the Holy Spirit.

August Update:

- Four students got baptized! Cassidy Almeyer, Sydney Wright, Alex Hales, and Tyler Buysse
- The youth room got redecorated! Special thank you to all parents, students, and leaders who helped out! This truly was a church wide effort.
- On August 31, we kicked off the new year of student ministry with food, fun and fellowship.



Coming Up in September:

- On **September 7**, we are starting our new series, "Wisdom."



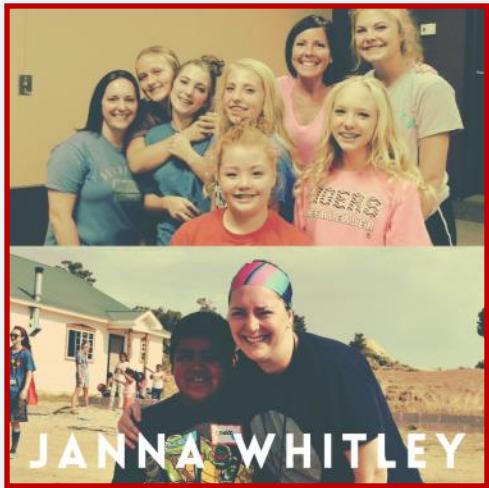
Wisdom is a gift that far too few of us ever give any serious consideration. We all have those chapters or moments in our past. Those decisions we wish we could undo. Some of the bad decisions simply left us feeling embarrassed. Other left us scarred. What's obvious to us now was not so obvious to us then.

The truth is that no one ever plans to ruin their life. Sadly, no one ever plans to not ruin their life either. Very few of us ever take the time to ask ourselves the

question that could potentially save us a world of heartache and regret. The question we should be asking ourselves is this: What is the wise thing to do? This fall we are going to explore just how vital wisdom is to the life of a Christian, and how asking ourselves this question could keep us on the path of a life glorifying to God.

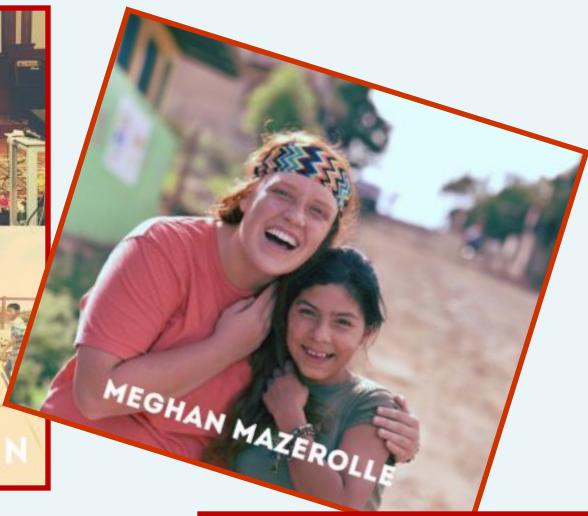
- **September 28:** No Wednesday night activities: GISD Homecoming Tailgate Party @ 6 pm
- **September 30:** Homecoming Football activities and game
- GBF Student Ministry now has an Instagram **@gbf_students** and Twitter **@GBFStudents**. Follow both for updates and news in student ministry.

Meet the 2016-17

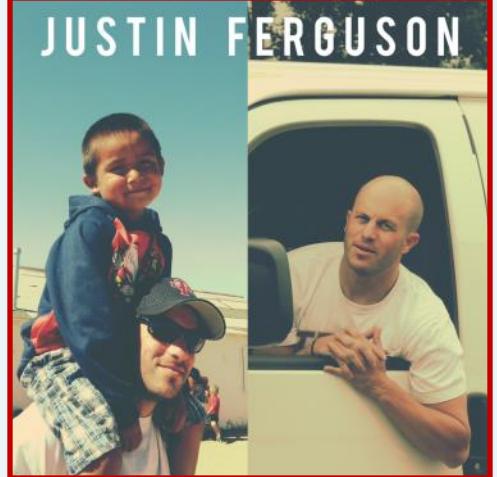


Youth Ministry Leaders

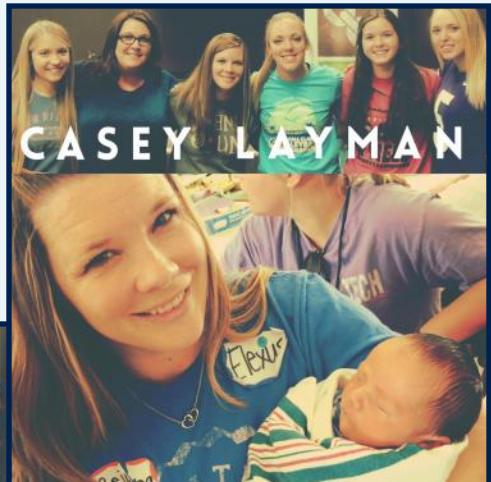
9th and 10th
Grade
Girls



9th and 10th
Grade Boys

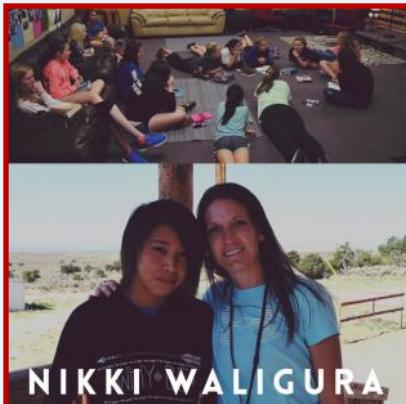
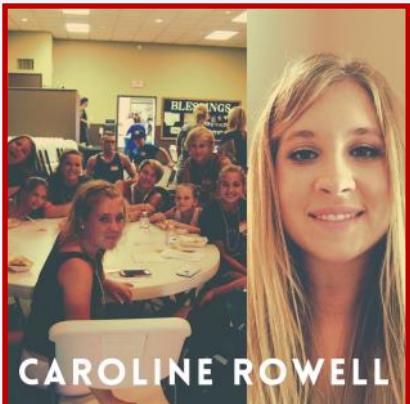


Meet the 2016-17 Youth Ministry Leaders

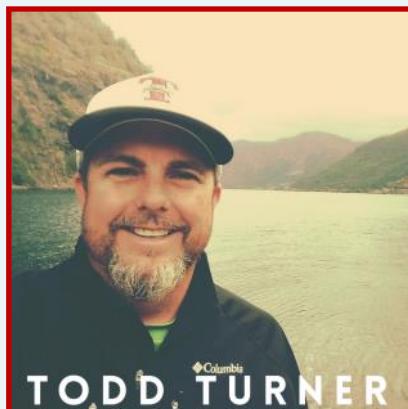
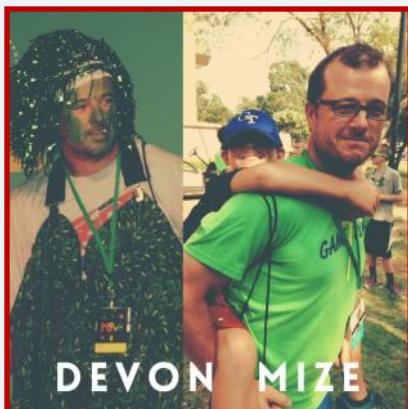


11th
and 12th
Grade

Girls



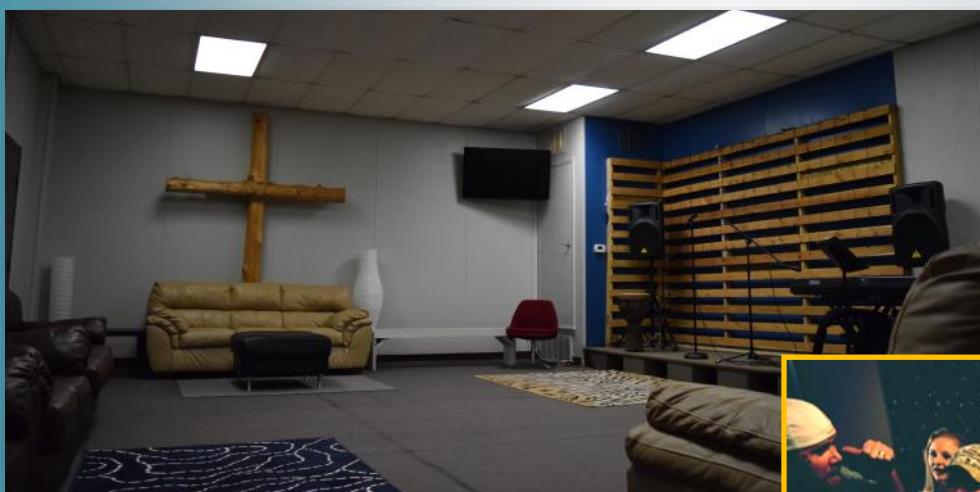
Middle School



Boys



Youth Room Transformation!



Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12.

Welcome,

Molly Sage Ferguson

August 10, 2016

7 lbs., 9 oz.

20 inches long



Proud Brother: Jonah

Proud Sister: Glory

Proud Parents:

Justin and Keelie

Ferguson

**On Sunday mornings,
remember to check announcements
on the board in the coffee area,
located north of the sanctuary,
for activities planned for the
month and upcoming week.**

Prayer Ministry

What this is: Praying for the service, for our pastor and for the church body during the Sunday morning service.

Get involved: If you would like to be a part of our Sunday morning prayer team please sign up in the kitchen this Sunday and you will be contacted with further information.

If you are interested in hearing more about the prayer ministry or have questions, please contact Keelie (903-821-3371) or Karen (972- 971-2652)

Contact Us

www.thegbf.com

Twitter: [@gbfgunter](https://twitter.com/gbfgunter)

Phone: 903.433.1732

Grace Bible Fellowship

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Elders:

Brent Wilkens

Jeff Crelia

Theron Whitley

Roy Layman

Follow Pastor Roy's blog

<http://roylayman.wordpress.com>

where he shares resources,

Grace Bible church life, and pastoral

insights from a small church pastor

in a mega-church world.

You can also access the blog

by going to the church website

www.thegbf.com

SEPTEMBER 2016