

NEWSLETTER

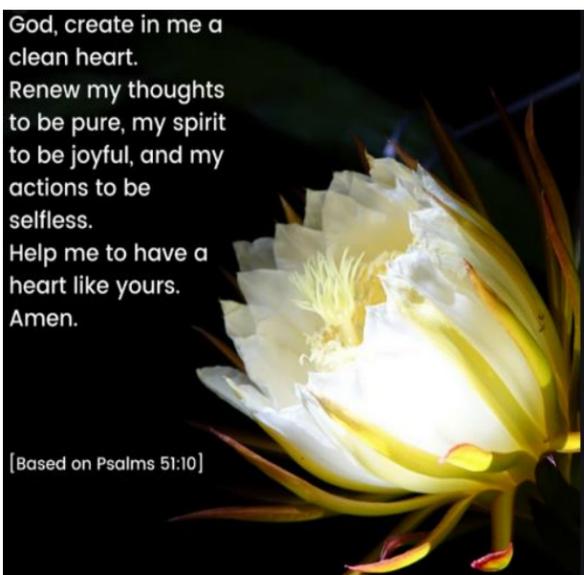
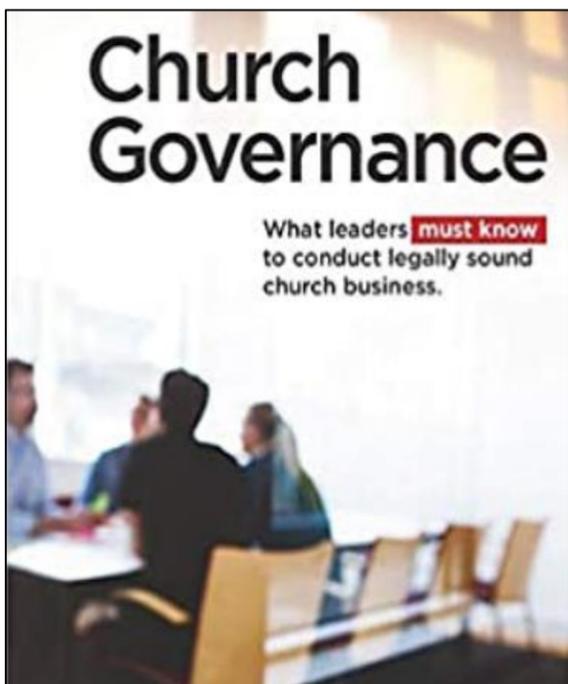
APRIL | MAY | JUNE



BOARD PRESIDENT: JAMES ANDERSON

BOARD VICE PRESIDENT: DONDI SEARFOSS

The Board reviewed the bylaws, which are the defined function, roles, and duties of the board. It is the governing document that addresses church issues of governance and administration.



Church Location:
Grace Downtown of Winchester (GDoW)
35 E. Jubal Early Drive
Winchester, VA 22601
50-514-8297
gdown@mygracedowntown.com

Restoration

AUTHOR: PATTI MEOLA

Some asked the question, “can a fallen pastor be restored or should be restored?” Let me start by saying, Pastor Brad did not fall... he did not fall from Grace... he relapsed.

Now, let's talk about restored, “Restored to what?” “Restored to the Lord” the answer is obviously a joyous “Yes”. The relapse is not in itself the unforgivable sin. Well, what about restored to his role as Senior Pastor? This requires understanding as to the measure of the repentance, the degree of his spiritual restoration, the nature of the resolve, and the accountability he will display in the future. Any believer who has fallen morally, pastor or not, ought to be fully restored to the Christian community, given their repentance and the restoration process of the church.

We must be careful with our criticism, as well! Sometimes when we argue against the restoration of ministers to the pulpit, it sounds as though we are denying their ability to rejoin the fellowship of believers. Or when we call others graceless when they are in fact ready to welcome any repentant sinner to the warmth of Christian fellowship.

Yes, there are some sins that will irreparably shatter a man’s reputation and disqualify him from a ministry of leadership forever. However, we believe this is not one of them. Remember, we are an imperfect church with imperfect people that welcomes everyone to GDoW.

If a previous sin forever disqualifies a man, Paul would have already been disqualified for his life of murderous persecution of Christians. Certainly, sin committed after one is in union with Christ... is in a certain way more serious than sin committed pre-conversion—not serious as in damnable, of course, but serious as in contrary to the new nature—but if any person could ever be deemed

forever blameworthy, that would seem to preclude them even from the fellowship. Grace either covers all sin repented of, or it covers none.

Our church discipline processes involved steps our pastor took in order to show his cooperation and to demonstrate his grief over this sin (still in process). Some may say that this is not very gracious, but biblical church discipline is not inflicting punishment or condemnatory. It is in fact applied grace.

We acknowledge we don’t restore unrepentant members to leadership. But once we make repentance a requirement, we have to simply discern repentance. That is biblical, and it is gracious because there are more parties at stake than simply the sinner in question—there is the body, the reputation of the church, and the credibility of our witness for Christ. No single sinner is above all of these considerations and to treat them so is to deny grace. Properly administered discipline is a grace (Hebrews 12:11).

The Board enacted a Rehabilitation Checklist and the Pastoral Restoration Process to ensure Pastor Brad restoration remains on course. To-date Pastor Brad is in intensive recovery meetings and spiritual mentorship meetings. So far, it is successful and is continually progressing toward his restoration as Senior Pastor of this church.

MONTH OF MAY

CHURCH DOORS CLOSED

COVID-19



The month of May was difficult for so many reasons. Our church found itself in challenging times. On top of our senior pastor being away, Covid-19 hit... a pandemic that struck the world. As well as, leadership changes and streaming technical difficulties.

- Pastor Evelyn Haycocks is standing in for Pastor Brad until his full return. She has taken on important responsibilities within the church, such as overseeing key leaders and leading the ministry. She is playing a critical role in supporting and nurturing the goals of this church. Although we can't give hugs right now but when you see her, give her a fist bump and let her know how much you appreciate her. Show her much love!
- Chris Maher resigned from his internship role with the church to work on other activities with his wife. Matt Fanning and Ed Butler have stepped in to lead the Monday Night Men Bible Study and to assist with the Greeter's Ministry.
- Misty Fields - our long-time worship leader stepped down to focus on other endeavors with her family. Dave Roy who has also been with the band a long time stepped in with the assistance of Aimee Anderson to lead the band. Ed Temple has taken on the role of bookkeeper.
- Adam Glogau - our Youth Pastor took on the role in our IT department when GDoW first started to help in this space. Even though this is not his forte, his dedication to make it work is endless. Yes, there were some streaming technical difficulties; however, we are in the process of getting it sorted out. A new computer was purchased to help with the performance, the bandwidth was increased, and wiring and other technical changes were made. (ongoing process)
- Website updates made, which were long overdue.



- A church survey to see what the members would like to hear or know more about.
- Prayer requests must go to prayer@mygracedowntown.com
- Pastor Brad apologized to the church board on 5/14. As well as, addressed and apologized to the church on 5/20.
- Dan & Donna Hartless and Ed & Shelley Temple has stepped into the lead role for the Café Ministry. Dondi & Bethany Searfoss took on this role when no one else did, of which is a big effort and they did it while leading the Kids Ministry. Dondi & Bethany, thank you so much for your dedicated service to this church.
- Every ministry leader must adhere to a background check.
- The church was cleaned several times prior to reopening the doors; a big thank you to Rob & Jennifer Adams.
- Used a "sign-up" system for members to sign up for service "church doors re-open" to obtain a head count for each service due to the 50% occupancy restriction from the CDC.

Covid-19 Symptoms

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/10Things.pdf>

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Please contact your healthcare provider or state or local health department if you have any questions.

Church Streaming Services

LEAD PASTOR: EVELYN HAYCOCKS

Due to Covid-19 and the directions from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all services moved to on-line streaming. The church doors were closed for public admittance.

Men Monday Bible Study was placed on hold for a few weeks. It eventually moved to on-line streaming, now the doors are back open... men are encouraged to participate in person. Monday Nights at 6:30 PM

Women Monday Night Bible Study moved to Zoom. Although the doors are opened for in person participation; the study will be both... in person and on Zoom. Monday Nights at 6:30 PM

Wednesday Night Bible Study moved to Facebook online and became round table discussions. Although the doors are opened for in person participation; it will be both... in person and Facebook for a while. It may move back to in person participation when approved from the CDC. Wednesday Nights at 6:30 PM

Thursday Night New Life was moved to on-line streaming. Thursday Nights at 5:30 PM

The **monthly Couples Fellowship** moved to Zoom and will remain on Zoom until further notice. If you are married, engaged, or couples. Join us in our next fellowship, it's more than just a bible study. The 3rd Friday each month at 7:00 PM

MONTH OF JUNE

June 14th - Doors were opened; however, we had to adhere to social distancing.

- Temperatures were checked at the door.
- OCCUPANCY was restricted to 50% of posted certificate of occupancy.
- Except for family members people were seated a part.
- Some wore face mask; however, it was not mandatory.
- No items were passed to or between non-family members. Matt, Ed, and Kevin handled the offering baskets.
- No food or drink items were served.
- No kids or youth service
- No van pick-ups/drop offs

CDC Checklist for Communities of Faith:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/checklist.html>

Pastor Brad gave a heart-felt message on Proverbs 3:5-6.

PRAYER FOR THE QUARTER
 Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection. Amen!



Help Wanted

Tech Person:

Must know streaming and sound to support the Tech booth.

Talent Scout:

If you have music skills (sing or play instrument), please contact one of the Band Leaders “Dave Roy or Aimee Anderson”.



Donations

Food Drive: PLEASE HELP...

- We need diapers and food for the food boxes that are handed out as a blessing for the benevolence requests.
- We need baked beans, individually wrapped chips, and fruit cups for the mission in July.