

ISSUE NO 4 | VOLUME 2



- grace -  
**insider**

APRIL 2019

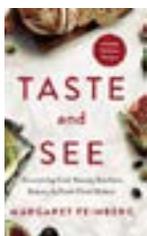
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# Welcome

Once you get to page 9 of this Insider you'll get the inside scoop on the Kingdom Parables series that we're starting after Easter. I am so glad that Pastor Jason has given us a sneak peek because I've been reading a book that has been quite enlightening, especially as it relates to the parables, "Taste and See" by Margaret Feinberg.



It's a short and easy read that covers her journey of researching food in the Bible with chapters on fish, figs, bread, salt, olives and lamb. In the first chapter it occurred to me anew how much talk there is of food in the Bible. In the second chapter it occurred to me how much I didn't know

contextually and culturally about the foods in the Bible and by chapter three I am hooked. What hooked me? Did you know that to pick figs, modern folk wear protective garb head to toe in blazing heat because fig leaves have a natural irritant on the leaves that has similar effects to Poison Ivy? Makes you read, "And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths" (Gen. 3:7) a bit differently doesn't it? Oh the ramifications of the sin nature, and this is just one little gem from the book!

We're glad you chose to come in today. If you're new here, we have services on our North Liberty Campus at 8, 9:30 & 11 AM and our Downtown Campus at 5 PM. Stop by our Info Desk in the Foyer or the Connect table Downtown to ask questions and meet someone new.

## Welcome to Grace Community

  
Chelsy Reed

## The App

Get the Grace App  
Search "Graceb3" in  
your app store or go to  
[graceb3.org/app](http://graceb3.org/app)

## Social Media

Connect on Facebook  
We have a BIG Facebook  
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## Editorial

**CHELSEY REED**  
Editor in Chief

**JUDY BIEKER**  
Operations Editor

**JEAN KEELEY**  
Technical Editor

## Contributors

Pastor Jason Blackley



# Brooks Simpson

## Teaching Pastor

Brooks Simpson came to faith in Christ as a student-athlete (wrestling) at the University of Iowa while attending Grace in 1988 and has been on staff since 1998. Brooks' desire is to see Christ magnified and exalted in the lives of people.

The spiritual battle described in Ephesians 6 is real and Brooks' passion is to equip people to take up the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit. He would love for people to see that Christ and His gospel are on every page of the Bible, and to understand the gospel as having the power to transform life here and now, not only as a ticket to heaven.

When he's not behind the pulpit or fulfilling his pastoral duties the rest of the week, he enjoys spending time with his family or finding an excuse to be outdoors, biking and other forms of exercise. Brooks is also known for enjoying a good dry-humored joke and has been to more than one midnight showing of various J.R.R. Tolkien films.

Brooks has been married to his bride, Stacy, since 1989. They have two children, Ryan and Katelyn. In 2013, a new addition, a daughter-in-law, Jodi, was added to their family.

live simulcast

A PAUL TRIPP

# PARENTING CONFERENCE

FOUNDATIONS OF A GODLY HOME

**MAY 3 • 6-9 PM &  
MAY 4 • 8-11 AM**  
NORTH LIBERTY FOYER

[graceb3.org/tripp](http://graceb3.org/tripp)



**APRIL 5-6**



9 AM - 5 PM

**Empowered to Connect Simulcast**

Friday and Saturday. Empowered to Connect offers practical advice for parents, teachers, counselors and anyone else who works with children who come from hard places. [graceb3.org/e2c](http://graceb3.org/e2c)

**APRIL 6**



7-8:30 PM

**International Student Easter**

The concept, in a nutshell, is to invite an international student(s) over to your house, enjoy some Easter traditions (food, baskets, eggs, stories) and then gather together on the North Liberty Campus to share dessert together and hear Pastor Brooks talk about the reality of Easter. [graceb3.org/1Seaster](http://graceb3.org/1Seaster)

**APRIL 13**

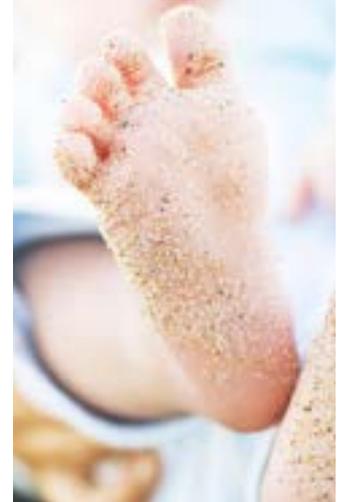


10 AM - 12 PM

**Seasoned Sisters Rejoicing in the Rain**

Come enjoy some light food fare and listen to Jacqueline Kenck speak on Isaiah 55:10-12 about how we can rejoice in the seasons of our lives where there's been more rain than sunshine. [graceb3.org/sisters](http://graceb3.org/sisters)

**APRIL 14**



11 AM - 12 PM

**Baby Dedication Class**

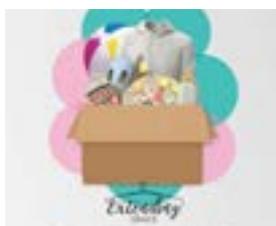
This class will equip parents who wish to dedicate themselves before the church to raising their children in the Lord. This class must be taken before parents can partake in the dedication ceremony. [graceb3.org/baby](http://graceb3.org/baby)

**MORE ON APRIL 14**



**Student Ministry Game Night**

Join us for game night from 6-8 PM! We will have large group games, snacks and a time of fellowship. [graceb3.org/gamenite](http://graceb3.org/gamenite)



**Extending Grace Spring Giveaway**

Foster families can come "shop" for free at our annual spring clothing giveaway from 5:30-7:30pm in the gym on the North Liberty Campus. [graceb3.org/springgive](http://graceb3.org/springgive)



**Let's Do Dinner Downtown**

We're having a church meal together after the service. We'll 'do dinner' on April 14 and 28.



**APRIL 21**

9 &amp; 11 AM &amp; 5 PM

**Easter Sunday Services**

We're having Easter services at Liberty High on Sunday morning and on the Downtown Campus that night. We're asking for folks to sit one serve one so that we have the needed number of volunteers to welcome all folks new to Grace as well as our regulars. Get the whole scoop... [graceb3.org/easter](http://graceb3.org/easter)

**MAY 3 & 4**

FRIDAY &amp; SATURDAY

**Paul Tripp Simulcast on Foundational Parenting**

Parenting is hard work, but what could be more important in your life than pointing your children to God and warning them of the dangers of sin? [graceb3.org/tripp](http://graceb3.org/tripp)

**MAY 5**

12:05 - 1:00 PM

**Getting to Know Grace Lunch**

In a big church like Grace, you want to meet someone who can tell you more about the church, someone who is 'in the know' and can answer your questions. That's exactly what our staff do at the Getting to Know Grace Lunch. [graceb3.org/gtkg](http://graceb3.org/gtkg)

**THE REGULARS**

You may not know it, nor have even seen it, but there's actually a lot of things that happen every single week at Grace that never get into the "Times" section of the Insider simply because they are so regular... and since I have a bit of extra space this month, I'd like to toot those horns a bit!

We have kids classes, lots of them! During the school year we have kids classes at North Liberty for nursery through 4th grade every single service. We also have 5th - 12th grade



classes during the 9:30 hour. You can check the full schedule at [graceb3.org/north-liberty-campus](http://graceb3.org/north-liberty-campus). By the way, some *insider* information - during the 8 o'clock service the elementary class is taught by Pastor Tom Widmer and it's called Missions Club. This looks really different than our other classes. The kids learn about different cultures, religions and our Field Staff around the globe. Even sitting in as an adult, this class is super cool.



There's also a youth group called ReFill (grades 7-12) that meets on Wednesday nights from 6-8 PM. Among many things that Brian Hagedorn, our Student Ministry Director facilitates for the students are Life Groups. These are basically pre-community groups that are made up of students on Wednesday nights. They're actually looking for more adults to lead with our Student Ministry, so if you're interested in serving our students you can apply to serve at [graceb3.org/serve](http://graceb3.org/serve).



## Sermon Forecast

written by Pastor Jason Blackley

In Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 we read how there is a time for everything. April is a time for transitions. No, I am not speaking of the hopeful transition from polar vortex to spring green and warmer temperatures. In April we will finish up our Ecclesiastes series, celebrate Easter and begin our next series looking at the parables of Jesus.

What a rich, heavy, and moving series this has been. As a pastor, it has been a difficult yet rewarding challenge to work through it with our church. However, if you are like me, you are also ready for it to mercifully end. Not because it has been bad. It has been fruitful, but it has been incomplete. We have spent so much time looking at the meaninglessness of things like wealth, wisdom, pleasure, work, and relationships that it can be easy to forget where hope comes from or even doubt if there is hope to be had at all. In his prayer to close one of our Downtown services during this series, Pastor Steve thanked Jesus for experiencing futility on our behalf on the cross. I can also picture Jesus' family watching Him breathe His last and what they must have been thinking and feeling. They must have questioned many things and found hope very difficult in those hours. Well, they needn't worry, because Easter was coming!



“Hope Resurrected | Doubt Overcome” is the sermon title for Easter and we will take a look at the doubts of Thomas and the response of Jesus. When our doubt seems overwhelming, and hope seems lost or as if it isn’t possible, Jesus draws near. He reminds us that He is the conquering King, the resurrected Savior, Prince of Peace and the one who experienced futility, anguish, and death on our behalf. Easter will be a great time to celebrate our risen King, in whom is all the meaning in the world.



The last Sunday of April we will begin our series on the Kingdom Parables of Jesus. Jesus told parables for many reasons, but one of the major reasons was to give a glimpse into what the kingdom of God is like. This is extremely helpful for us to study as we come out of the Ecclesiastes series. In Ecclesiastes, we studied, “life under the sun.” In the parables we will see Jesus describe life “above the sun.” But wait, there’s more! He will also show us how to live in light of the kingdom of God while we are under the sun. In Matthew 6:33, He commands us to “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” In the Lord’s prayer, He teaches His disciples to pray “Your kingdom come; your will be done.” We will dig deep into the parables that Jesus told and this will give us a picture of what God and His kingdom are like.



# sermon notes

April 7

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# sermon notes

April 14

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# sermon notes

April 21

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# sermon notes

April 28

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# Treasure

We're going for complete transparency and at the same time trying to avoid utter bore war.

written by Chelsy Reed

When we talked about a one fund concept last year, let's just say there were some who understood it better than others. Heck, even after having Caleb, our Business Director, explain how the numbers in the pie charts below worked, I was still wondering if I really got it.

As a Momentum refresher, the Community bucket is stuff we're already doing like ministries, keeping lights on, making coffee and putting on events, classes, training programs and services. So the Community bucket is stuff that we're already doing, and those things don't grind to a halt to fill another bucket with funds.

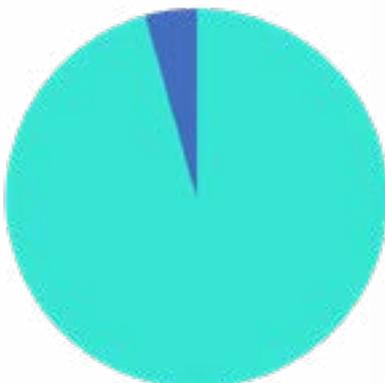
The Corridor bucket is the bucket that is moving us towards a new facility in North Liberty and (on a longer term) Downtown. Back in the fall we were thinking those dollars were going to be for land purchase, but after vetting that land it was found that it wouldn't meet the needs of a growing church for various reasons that we outlined in the February Insider.

Finally, the World bucket is where you'll find all missions flavored things. From Field Staff to short-term trips, Backyard Bible Clubs and local outreaches like Invervarsity and Informed Choices.

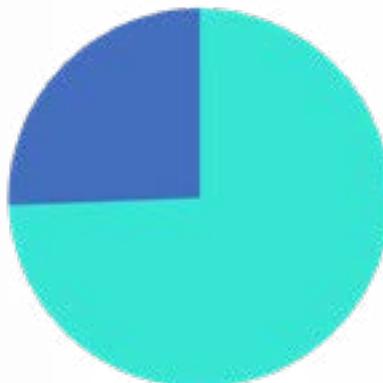


As of early March 2019 we've been gaining momentum (all sorts of intentions with that pun)! We have 99.9% of Our Community funded, 66.5% of Our Corridor funded and 96.5% of Our World funded. These numbers and goals are based only on the first year of two for Momentum, so the date when we want to have passed these goals is November 2019.

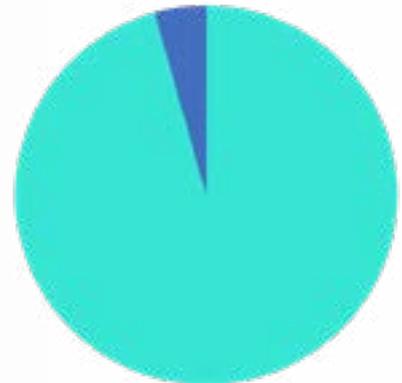
Our Community



Our Corridor



Our World



Tracking the One Fund Buckets

 Giving Received  Remaining to Goal

# THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

*it's on the books*



If you missed our Annual Business Meeting on March 24 we recorded it for you, so make a bag of popcorn and watch in replay mode. [graceb3.org/business2019](http://graceb3.org/business2019)



## A Budget on a Mission

### Grace Community Church FY 2019-2020 Budget

Budget Category	Budget FY 2019-2020
302 - Women	
30202 - Discipleship	1,800
30203 - Events	9,450

Ya know what's fun? Making the new kids on the block explain their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. For a solid year and a half we were running without a Women's Ministry Director. There was a core team of ladies that led in the time they could spare, but it was harder without a leader. In the Fall of 2018 we hired Kathryn George and suddenly the sad little budget of last year has grown from 1,000

to 11,250. Ladies, things are happening in 2019! What exactly are those things? There's only two line items. Well Kathryn says that there are some semester long Bible studies that you can keep an eye out for, some breakfasts designed to makes space to gather and get to know each other and a vamped up coaching approach to women in leadership! Woot!

She also informs me that there's one big confrence we can all look forward to in the Fall of 2019 featuring guest speaker, Janet Aucoin. Who knew budgeting could be exciting, am I right ladies?



In 1,000s

**589,442.38** NET INCOME  
**2,470,159.41** INCOME  
**1,880,717.03** EXPENSES

# Toby Thompson

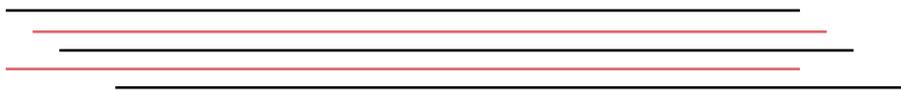


Toby Thompson married Erin in 2005 and they have two boys Elijah and Levi. Toby's day job is working in the front office of Hart Family Dentistry, and he also happens to be one of the newest elders at Grace Community!

Toby serves at Grace currently in the counseling ministry, he's also the newest ACBC certified counselor, bringing our total count to 10! He has been serving on the counseling team for a while.

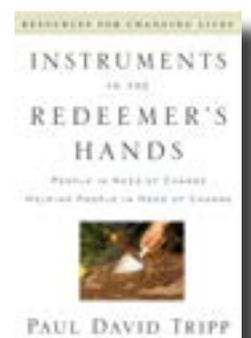
The Thompson's started coming to Grace in 2012. They'd been driving farther to go to their previous church and felt that they really should be serving more locally to where they lived. Luckily, Grace was part of the 'local' area. Once here Toby felt a passion growing for the counseling ministry and the rest is sorta history.

Toby is a self-proclaimed foodie and notes that he is passionate about the Word of God (which has a lot of food mentions by the way), counseling, structured schedules and pizza. He also enjoys "a good cup of coffee (you know, the fresh ground beans stuff)," reading John Piper or Michael Horton and pretty much any other book related to biblical counseling.



Counseling is a big part of our ministry at Grace, but what we're really talking about when we say "counseling" is intensive discipleship. Getting involved in the counseling ministry is not out of reach for any believer.

If you're interested in learning more we encourage you to pick up *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* by Paul Tripp. We have it on at our Resource Center (suggested donation for any book is \$10) or you can pick it up online.

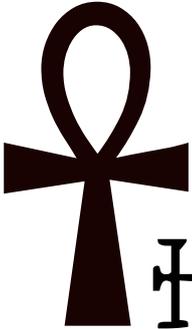


GRACEB3.ORG/EASTER



*easter at liberty*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 21 • 9 & 11AM • LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL**



# THE SHELDONS



The Sheldons are Grace Field Staff in Northern Africa. They serve in a Muslim heavy culture whilst running a busy business and raising two children. We had the joy of seeing Anika and Aaron in January on our home turf.



### Home Life

Schooling can be rough when you're a kindergartener learning Arabic. Vlad, the oldest of the two Sheldon boys, is getting by with his language skills, but could use some prayer. There are a lot of schools where the Sheldons live, but most of them don't take foreigners at all. The ones that do require Arabic and these factors significantly limit the schooling options. While Aaron is pretty fluent, Anika and the boys are still in the phase where a lot goes right by them.

### Work Life

Aaron and Anika own their own gym business, which is a lot of work. Thankfully in the last nine months they've gotten some serious backup for administration and spiritual support. Aaron had been spending about 70 hours per week in the gym and they've been able to cut that back to about 40 hours per week. In their business they teach their members that fitness isn't just physical. They have a hexagonal concept that covers six sides of fitness: physical, emotional, spiritual, social, mental, and nutritional. This built in

business concept is pretty neat because it teaches a lot of stewardship principles and opens the door for spiritual conversations.

### Word Life

Since the Sheldons got some backup in 2018 they've been able to reinvest their time. A women's discovery group began where they've been talking about different cultures and religious beliefs. They started specifically examining the text of the Bible in the winter of 2019. Pray that the ladies in this study would be open to hearing God's word and that they would enter the kingdom of God.



# - grace - insider

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Backyard Bible Clubs  
in 2019

02 Abrahamse Field  
Staff Update

03 Gabe Isbell -  
Staff Bio

04 Meet Angie Miller, a  
faithful member and  
servant of the building  
committee!



Grace Community Church  
graceb3.org • graceb3 app  
319.626.2040  
2707 Dubuque St. NE  
North Liberty, IA 52317