



June 21, 2018

Greetings friends,

As I prepared TWAG this week, I wanted to let Pastor Fred know just how much we value his time with us these past three years. I invited others to join me in offering a few words of acknowledgement and gratitude. Thanks to all who shared their thoughts!



- Pastor Fred has helped to facilitate a sense of unity in the church; our meetings are more productive and meaningful. I feel that with his guidance we now have more ownership and confidence in the decisions that are made.
- I think we have made great steps forward with his leadership. I have enjoyed his sermons and his [attention to] detail in the church service.
- He did say this to me a lot; while shaking his head in disbelief, 'Unbelievable.'
- Pastor Fred, I believe we have learned from one another and have grown together. We are both stronger and more joyful because of the time you spent working with and alongside your friends at Grace. I'm sorry to see you go and so thankful that you were sent to us.
- Pastor Fred has definitely been a "breath of fresh air" to the remodeling of the Grace Church administration and operations. We now have organized committees/chairpersons, goals and objectives with measurable results. There is no excuse for the congregation to ever fall back into the doldrums we had migrated to in 2015. God bless you Fred on your next assignment and hopefully you have enjoyed the Grace Church congregation as much as we have enjoyed you and all of your dedication. Godspeed and please come back to visit us in the next few months if your schedule allows it.

- Pastor Fred arrived on our Grace Church doorsteps with joy in his heart and willing compromise an easy part of any conversation. We were always welcomed by his smile and honest friendliness. There is no doubt that he will be missed in Story City as these three years have passed far too quickly. We all wish you well, Pastor Fred! Thank you for spending your interim time with us.
- Pastor Fred you brought our membership closer together doing God's work which is great but on the other hand it is not so great because your job here is complete and must now move on. Thanks for all your service to our church, Pastor, you will be missed.
- Often when someone would make a statement, Pastor Fred would say, "Tell me more." This active listening helped the speaker hone in on the message he/she wanted to convey. In small, but effective ways like this, Pastor Fred encouraged us to think and to be clear in what we say. That lesson and so many others have helped us grow individually and as a church. We'll miss you, Pastor Fred!
- I thank Fred for bringing order to our church. We asked a team to brainstorm the many strengths of our church and they realized the many positive activities we participate in as mission work. Out of that activity, a mission group was formed which became a committee. We had no committee before Fred came. This was a real concern for me and I am thankful that we were able to make progress in that direction. *
- I started on the finance committee the first of January 2016. At that time our church was in financial disarray. As I recall, we had not been able to give to apportionments since the middle of 2014. Fred really made us take a hard look at our finances and helped us institute a budgeting system in all committees in order for our church to set a budget as a whole. He helped us with a system of staying within that budget and that has been extremely helpful to me personally on the committees I work on. The hardest part for us (or at least me) was to take a hard look at ways to pay down our apportionment debt and asking targeted members to dig deep and give to our church. As of this writing, we are completely out of apportionment debt. WHEW! Thanks for your help, Fred.

- **Wow, what a journey we've been on together! Thanks for guiding us to confidence, giving us tools for honest effectiveness, and leading us back to cheerful fellowship. I hope there's a bit of Story City Grace that stays with you as you continue on your way.**
- **Thank you, Fred, for the fun you brought to the office 'most every day. I've valued your patience and humor and our nonsense-sparring exchanges. I've appreciated your heart and the wisdom you shared (worth far more than any penny that could have ever paid for it). You're leaving Grace Church much better in many ways than you found us and I will miss working with you!**

Please join us at worship this Sunday as we listen to Pastor Fred one last time before he goes on his way!

This Week at Grace – Pastor Fred will lead our worship service for the last time this week, before moving to Prairie City and beginning his work with churches in both Prairie City and Pleasant Hill. This week he will share his insights speaking from Mark 4:35-41 with his message entitled, “Who is This Man?” Denise Carlson will bless us with special music and Terry Gustason will serve as liturgist. *Greeters this week are David & Linda McVicker and Leah Frandson. Those serving as ushers include Bill & Susan Mardock, Christine Semler-Blue and Eric Dowe.* Worship begins at 9:15, but you are invited to bring the morning beverage of your choosing and come a little early (8:45) to engage in a time of fellowship before the service. Please join us!

HELP WANTED: **Thursday and Friday, June 28 and 29 will be our deep cleaning days (including window washing) at the parsonage.** The house will be open at 8 AM both days and the Trustees will have list of needed work on the kitchen counter. All are welcome to come lend a hand. Please bring the tools needed for the job(s) you plan to help tackle. Thank you!

There is an informational flyer available in the narthex regarding the upcoming Lifestart festival set for July 14th in the North Park.

Looking ahead – Please note the attached invitation to the Retirement Reception in honor of Bethany Life Chaplain Sandy Anenson.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:
Fred Darbonne; Marlene Doolittle; Denny Michel; Caleb Michel; Jean Reeder; Lois Johnson; Duane O'Tool; Jackie Royer (Sharla's friend); Norman Patti; Cooper Leeman, Taylor family

News You Can Use

Sunday, June 24

- 8:45 AM Java with Jesus – BYOB beverage & visit in narthex
- 9:15 AM Worship – Pastor Fred's last day in the Grace pulpit

Wednesday, June 27

Pastor Fred's belongings will be loaded and he'll be off to Prairie City

Thursday, June 28 and Friday, June 29

8:00 AM the parsonage will be open for folks to come and work as personal time allows

Sunday, July 1

- 9:15 AM Worship – Pastor Jonathan Cooney's 1st Sunday in the Grace Church pulpit
- 10:15 AM Hermanson 40th Anniversary cake & coffee in Fellowship Hall

**Faithfully,
Cathy**