

THE VOICE NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER – PASTOR PETER PEER

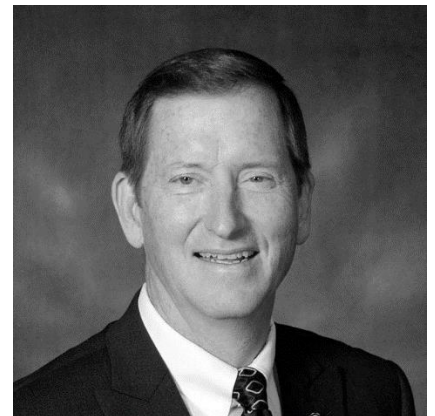
The culmination of another election year is fast coming upon us. You hear many people say that this is “the most consequential election of our lifetime.” To me it seems like I have heard that said of every presidential election since the first one I can remember in 1960. At that time, there was a feeling of dismay as the results became clear. I remember even feeling a twinge of fear that we would become a Catholic nation. Now days I am much less given to such fears even though the state of our nation is far worse now than it was then. The things we see occurring in our nation are horrifically frightful. But as Christians we have a calmness in a settled assurance that our God is in control of all these matters. Remember that scripture tells us: “But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” 2 Timothy 3:13. So we should not expect things to get better though we continue to pray that they will. Our trust and hope is in Him whose designs are far grander than our fears. We live in dangerous times, times of war, threats and the rumors of war. Yet let us never forget that “. . . the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men.” Daniel 4:17. Malcom Muggeridge said, “Behind the debris of these self-styled, sullen supermen and imperial diplomatists, there stands the gigantic figure of one person, because of whom, by whom, in whom, and through whom alone mankind might still have hope. The person of Jesus Christ.” Therefore, my brethren, let us fear nothing nor let our love for Christ, like that of many, grow cold, Matthew 24:12. While the world is spiraling downward, let us stand courageously against the tide and let us “Aspire to Something Higher;” to a higher level of victorious Christian living. Let us be “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God.” 2 Peter 3:12.

2025 CONFERENCE NEWS:

Plans for our conference 2025 are progressing very well. The 2025 Conference will be July 3-8 at the Marriott Columbus Northwest, Dublin, OH. Please pray for the meeting of the executive panel in Dublin, Ohio, October 7-8.

We have some exciting news to announce. Dr. Daniel Anderson, President of Appalachian Bible College, will be with us as a special conference speaker. Dr. Anderson received his Master of Divinity Degree from Grace Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Niah and Alisha Merrill will also be with us to bring a musical concert on Sunday evening. They are classically trained musicians with a love for the Lord and a desire to see lives changed for Christ.



YOUTH CONFERENCE – PASTOR CHRIS KNIGHT & PASTOR JONATHAN EDWARDS

As we turn our attention towards YCON 2025 in Dublin, OH, we want to let you know that we have both agreed to be the co-directors of YCON. Our theme for next year will be “VERTICAL FOCUS” from Colossians 3:2, “Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.” YCON is open to all students in grades 6-12.

If you’re interested in helping as a counselor in 2025, please contact Pastor Chris Knight at chrisk4christ@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you!

CHILDREN’S CONFERENCE 2025 – PASTOR IKE GRAHAM

Christian Climber will be leading 1st through 5th graders on an adventure to “Climb Up!” There will be nursery for infants (0-2) and a pre-school division. If you are able to help with Children’s Conference, Christian Climber is looking for assistance with games, songs, crafts and Bible lessons. Special appearances each day by the Enchanter will amaze and astound! If you are able and willing to help Christian Climber, please contact him at ikeg327@gmail.com or call 330-749-0545.

NATIONAL EVANGELISM TEAM – PASTOR DEL MILLER

Thank you for reading about NET. Many of the team have shared with us how God worked in their hearts during NET 24. Next year’s dates are July 12-27, 2025 with our ministry focus week at Limestone GBC near Limestone, TN. If you, or someone you know, would like to apply for the team, please let us know so we can send out an application. Those are available by email or snail mail. The application deadline is February 1, 2025, which will be here soon and very soon!

Some of you may have heard how the Lord supplied for us at the last minute this year. That was true on several counts. One of the most dramatic situations involved our training location and our driver. We thank the Cornerstone GBC for their tremendous generosity in hosting the team for training on very short notice. However, because of our change of training location, our original driver was unable to help us on the beginning of the trip. With less than a week to go before the trip, Daron McAllister agreed to be our driver and to stay on with us for the entire trip. He was a tremendous help with many aspects of team life. Looking back, it is hard to imagine us doing it all without him.

We will try to get you some more details about the trip in the months ahead. Meanwhile, please be praying for the team members that the Lord would have for us for the upcoming trip.

Thanks and God Bless!

Pastor Del and Grace Miller pastordelmiller@gmail.com

LISTIE GBC – PASTOR CHRIS KNIGHT

We are planning our annual Homecoming Revival week for October 13-18. My brother-in-law, Pastor Nathan Bramlet, will be the guest speaker. The church is celebrating 132 plus years in the community. There is a special fellowship meal, hymn sing, ice cream social, and special music planned for the week. If you are nearby, please join us for these meetings. Please also be in prayer as we reach out to our community. Our prayer is the prayer of Habakkuk when he wrote, “...O Lord, revive Thy work in the midst of the years...” (Habakkuk 3:2).

LAMOILLE VALLEY GBC – PASTOR ETHAN KALLBERG

Sunday September 8 was a day of celebration and gratitude at the Lamoille Valley GBC. Many former attendees and guests joined us from around the state, including our Pastor Scott and Monica Libby, and Craig Noyes from our sister church in Irasburg. Pastor Del and Grace Miller from the Orrville church were also able to join us in the celebration and sang a special song with Pastor Ethan during the service. We had a blessed time of worship ending with the burning of our mortgage! After the service we enjoyed a BBQ for all our guests. We had an encouraging time of fellowship around the tables reconnecting with people we had not seen in many years. Then, we invited the community to join us for a free ice cream social with cake. For those who might not know our history, here is a brief recount.

Pastor Scott Libby, a native of Vermont, upon returning from Grace Seminary had a burden for planting Bible believing Churches in New England. Little did he know Jewish Missionary Jeffrey Kran and his family would soon come to share this burden. In 1992, Jeff began doing Bible Studies in various communities. Pastor Scott asked Jeff to go to Morrisville to visit Peter and Marion Guihan's relatives who were meeting with Jehovah's Witnesses. Jeff's background and testimony gave him a unique way of defending the Trinity. Jeff began meeting with them and Peter and Marion in a regular Bible study. At first this study met at home of the Guihan's relatives and at one point in time had an attendance of fifteen people. The Bible Study was forced to move to the home of the Guihans. Jeff also did Bible studies simultaneously in the Morrisville's surrounding areas. He experienced variations in the attendance at the Guihan's Bible study. He persevered and eventually a young couple, the Pelton family, joined them. Rand and Michelle exhibited a true desire to have spiritual questions answered, Rand often coming with a whole page of them. Jeff spent blessed time studying with the Peltons. In time both Rand and Michelle confessed a solid faith in the person and work of Jesus. The Pelton family began attending the Irasburg Grace Brethren Church. Michelle and Rand were baptized by triune immersion. Meanwhile, The Rockwell family had started attending Irasburg and attended the Bible study in Morrisville as well. This study continued with the three couples as regulars and Jeff's son Ariel joining them when he traveled with Jeff. Irasburg invited Pastor Keith Merriman for a visit to observe what the Lord was doing. He visited the various Bible studies and immediately connected them with Irasburg's desire to do church planting. He pointed out to Pastor Scott and Jeff that Jeff had been doing church planting, by doing the preliminary work of exploring communities, proclaiming the gospel at these studies, and teaching the Scriptures. The Elders, Scott Rafferty, Pastor Scott Libby, and Jeff Kran, began working with the men in the church to draft a definite plan. Pastor Scott with the other Elders sought advice from other fellowship pastors. The plan required another man to work along side Jeff as an equal team member. This man would take more of the pastoral responsibilities as Jeff continued his work as an Evangelist/Missionary. Pastor Scott expressed this need to the fellowship as they were refining the plan. Pastor Ethan Kallberg showed interest in this work and committed to be the second member of the team. The Fellowship adopted the written plan on March 7, 2003. This acceptance was followed by a commissioning service for both Ethan and Jeff at National Conference of 2003. Pastor Ethan originally settled in Burlington with Jeff continuing to teach the Bible study in Morrisville.

On February 10, 2004 the Morrisville Bible study started meeting at People's Academy school in the history room across from the teachers' lounge at 7pm. On February 27 we had a special meeting at the home of Peter and Marian Guihan to discuss what it would take to start meeting as a church in light of the interest shown by the Brietmeyer, LaPierre, and Locke families from the Irasburg church. This meeting laid the ground work that led to Sunday services beginning. As a result of that meeting, commitment sheets were signed by Peter, Marian, and even their son Sam Guihan, Rand and Michelle

Pelton, Ken and Judy Breitmeyer, Michael and Virginia LaPierre, Greg and Jessica Locke, Marlene Kran, Denise Burney, Terry and Tami Brennan, and Mary Kay Cotte. The Bible Study continued steadily, and on June 22, 2004 the Lamoille Valley Grace Brethren Church was officially incorporated by the State of Vermont.

After Pastor Ethan moved to Hyde Park on August 31, we worshipped for the first time on Sunday morning September 5th at the people's Academy School Auditorium at 9:30am with Sunday school following at 11:00am. Our first communion service was celebrated on October 17 at the People's Academy lunch room. While all of this was happening, we were talking with Dean Whittamore of the Advent Christian Church. Ralph and Carol Rockwell had known Dean and his wife Fonda since childhood and opened the way for us to discuss the possibility of purchasing their church building. It was really just a dream for a long time because there was another church that was already in negotiations with the Advent Christian Church for the purchase of the building; the Lord had other plans. With Dean's help we were placed in contact with Clint Taber who was the Eastern Superintendent for the Advent Christian Churches. After the negotiations with the other church failed, Mr. Taber and his board offered our church the opportunity to buy the building for \$200,000 at no interest. After consulting with the men of the Irasburg church at an October men's advisory meeting the Lord opened the door for us to accept their offer to purchase the building. We agreed to purchase the building for \$200,000 which included a \$5000 downpayment. The balance is to be paid at the rate of \$600 per month for the first two years and then \$800 for the remaining years until paid in full. All of this interest free! After the purchase agreement was signed, we quickly moved in and had our first Sunday morning worship service in the new building on October 31. Our Great God has truly blest us beyond all that we could ask or think.

On Saturday, November 20, we held a dedication for our new building. At this time, four families and Pastor Ethan transferred membership from Irasburg GBC to the LVGBC (eleven people). In addition to this, six people became new members and four people were baptized. God is so GOOD!

On September 6, 2024 we received an email from John Oliver Jones, Treasurer of the Eastern Regional Association of the Advent Christian Church. He wrote, *"Hi Pastor Ethan and Benjamin. We received your loan payment check dated 9-4-2024 for \$2,829.50, representing the paid-off mortgage. Thanks."*

We want to thank the churches of the CGBCI for your prayer and financial support over the years. We recently received some special gifts from a couple of church to help us finish painting our building and with payoff of our mortgage. Thank you all! We praise the Lord for building His church here in Morrisville, and we look forward to many more years of ministry if He graciously allows.

NEW TROY GBC – PASTOR ROBERT MENSINGER

God is continuing to bless here at New Troy. Our attendances and offerings have been holding up well despite our small numbers. We have had several visitors the last couple of months and 2 public professions of faith and 1 baptism. These have been an encouragement to all of us.

My wife Lila and I took a mini-vacation to the Creation Museum in Kentucky recently and had a great time there. Pastor Ron Welsh filled the pulpit in my absence. We are planning on having Pastor Jeff Eno at our church on October 6 to share from the pulpit and do his magic and special music. Please pray for the Sunday services as I am now in chapter 7 in Revelation. The series of Revelation is well received.

"The Voice Newsletter" is the communication tool of the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International; and edited by Pastor Les Vnasdale.

News Articles and/or Mailing Updates: to Pastor Chris Knight at cgbcvoicenews@gmail.com