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Saving Grace
Bible Church

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WELCOME TO SAVING GRACE!



Dr. Marc Wragg

Pastor/Teacher of Saving Grace

Saving Grace is a body of believers marked by a deep love for Christ and His Church, and by an earnest desire to honor God through lives transformed by the power of His Word. We're pleased that you've chosen to visit us this morning and hope that you will be encouraged by the preaching and teaching of the Scripture, and by the warmth of our fellowship.

As a guest, you may have questions about our ministry. To better serve you, we've prepared this booklet to tell you a little about ourselves and our convictions. If you have questions that are not answered in this booklet or if you'd like to speak with someone about other matters that may be weighing on your heart, we invite you to reach out to any of our pastors or elders. You can also email our church office at info@sgbc.me, or just fill out the tear-off section of your bulletin and place it in the offering plate or one of the collection boxes on the rear wall of the sanctuary. We would love to serve you in any way that we can.

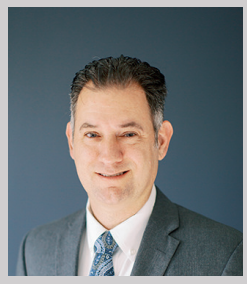
Thank you for visiting with us today, and we hope that you'll return soon.

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Wragg".

Pastor Marc Wragg
Pastor/Teacher

MEET OUR PASTORS



Marc Wragg

Dr. Marc Wragg has served as the Pastor-Teacher of Saving Grace since 2010. He graduated from The Master's Seminary in 2004, and earned his Doctor of Ministry In Expository Preaching at The Master's Seminary In 2018. He is also a certified ACBC counselor. Marc and his wife Jill have been blessed with six children.



Eric Borgstrom

Eric Borgstrom joined the pastoral staff of Saving Grace May of 2016. He graduated with a Master of Divinity from The Expositors Seminary in May of 2015 and currently serves as Pastor of Family Ministries. Eric and his wife Lisa have been married since 2009 and have been blessed with four children.



Nick Foerster

Nick Foerster joined the pastoral staff of Saving Grace in October of 2018. He is currently serving as Pastor of Young Adults, including junior high, high school, and college. He graduated from The Expositors Seminary in May of 2018. Nick and his wife Lucy have been blessed with five children.



Rusty Duckworth

Pastor Rusty Duckworth joined the pastoral staff of Saving Grace in August of 2021. He is currently serving as Pastor of Adult Ministries and Music. He graduated from The Expositors Seminary in May of 2018. Rusty and his wife Jenny have been blessed with two children and are currently expecting their third.

ABOUT US

Corporate Worship at Saving Grace

Sunday Mornings and Evenings

Our primary Pastor/Teacher is Marc Wragg. We have two identical main services on Sunday mornings: one at 9:00 am and the other at 10:45 am. All worship services include the preaching of God's Word, corporate singing, prayer, and the public reading of Scripture. We typically celebrate Communion the first Sunday morning of each month and we also hold special evening services periodically throughout the year, including Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, and baptism services. We also offer topical studies on Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary through most of the fall, winter, and spring months.

Pulpit Ministry

We believe that the faithful exposition of God's Word serves as the fuel and foundation for individual spiritual growth, and for the vitality of all the ministries of the church. Therefore, verse-by-verse expository preaching and teaching of the Bible is our regular practice from the pulpit.

Given that there is sometimes confusion about what expository preaching is and how it differs from other methods of preaching, we find it helpful to be clear about its definition and purpose. The intent of expository preaching is to discover and accurately explain the author's intended meaning in any given passage of Scripture. The grounds for this kind of text-driven preaching are clear when you consider the unique character of the Bible. God's Word is inerrant, and therefore it is the perfect guide to life and godliness. It is also entirely sufficient, so no other source of wisdom is necessary. Finally, God's Word is authoritative, thus we have a responsibility to conform to its principles and commands. For these reasons, our pastors always labor to discover the literal, grammatical, and historical meaning of the passage so they can accurately explain it to the modern hearer.

Music & Worship

Our Music Ministry is led by Pastor Rusty Duckworth, and our commitment and joy is to worship God in a manner that is pleasing to Him. We believe this means that the content of musical worship must be sound biblical truth. Therefore, we corporately sing the truth as we magnify the perfections of God and His Work, as we gratefully praise Him for all that He is and has done, and as we admonish one another to know Him and to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We are also committed to ensuring that our music is a balance of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all of which are carefully chosen to help us focus our minds on the praise and glory of God. This prepares our hearts to humbly receive the truth that is proclaimed through the exposition of the Scriptures during the preaching time.

AUDIO & VIDEO MINISTRY

Each week we offer livestream through YouTube for our Main Service at 9:00 am on Sunday. In addition, all the audio in our fellowship groups, and most Bible studies through the week are recorded. The audio is available on the website or the phone app.



SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

9 AM Sunday Morning

MAIN SERVICE (Sanctuary)
Sojourners Fellowship Group (Fellowship Hall)
Nursery (ages 0-2)
Children's Church (ages 3-5)

10:45 AM Sunday Morning

MAIN SERVICE (Sanctuary)
Grace Life Fellowship Group (Fellowship Hall)
Youth Fellowship Group (Youth Building)
Nursery (ages 0-2)
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Sunday School (ages 3-5)
Sunday School (grades 1-3)
Sunday School (grades 4-6)

6 PM Sunday Evening

SERVICE (or Adult Bible Study Series)
Nursery (ages 0-2)

- Please check calendar for the most up to date Sunday evening information. During the summer months, there are weeks we will not meet on Sunday evenings.

Please check the website for more information on what is being taught in each Fellowship Group on Sunday morning. All Fellowship Groups are recorded and the audio is available on the website.



We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation to man. It is verbally inspired in every word, inerrant in the original documents, infallible in all its purposes, supremely authoritative, and God-breathed.

We believe that there is but one living and true God; an infinite, all-knowing Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, and eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each equally deserving of our worship and obedience.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit; that He was born of a virgin, being fully human while still being fully God, that He lived a sinless life in perfect submission to the Father, and that He paid the full debt of sin for His people in His vicarious and atoning death on the cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal and imminent return in power and glory.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and Son, and that He is the supernatural and sovereign agent in our regeneration, baptizing every believer into spiritual union with Christ upon their salvation. We believe that He also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, and empowers believers for service, and seals them until the day of redemption.

We believe that the salvation of sinful human beings is by grace alone through faith alone. This salvation is accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God as the repentant sinner responds in faith to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and unsaved; the saved unto the resurrection of eternal life and the unsaved unto the resurrection of eternal damnation.

We believe that all who put their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the Church, of which Christ is the Head. The purpose of the Church is to glorify God by building its members up in the faith, by instruction of the Word, by fellowship, by keeping its ordinances, and by faithfully proclaiming the gospel. The formation of the Church began on the Day of Pentecost and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture.

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

Saving Grace Bible Church is committed to a philosophy of ministry that is founded on a high view of God and an unshakable confidence in the power and authority of His Word. This foundation informs and orders our priorities as a church, which is to proclaim the gospel to a world in desperate need, and to see men and women brought to completeness in Christ (Colossians 1:28). We summarize our philosophy of ministry in this way:

The Exaltation of God. To exalt God is to worship Him exclusively and to believe and act upon His promises and commands by faith, knowing that our reward will come from Him (Hebrews 11:6). We believe that an exalted view of God produces a strong and abiding faith marked by clarity in our understanding of the Scriptures and confidence in its power, a God-centered perspective on all the circumstances of life, and spiritual vitality in our corporate life as a local church.

The Exposition of the Scriptures. The author's original intent is the meaning of the Scriptures, and this unique meaning is discovered through an exegetical process which draws the author's intended meaning out of the text rather than reading our own ideas and presuppositions into the text. We believe that this is best accomplished using the literal, grammatical, historical method of interpretation. A church that is devoted to faithful exposition will be marked by people who are submitted to the truth, and who are being regularly transformed by its sanctifying power (Romans 12:1-2).

The Edification of the Saints. Through the functioning of the local church, God provides sanctifying grace that encourages growth in love, knowledge, and holiness. This spiritual growth is evidenced as believers are equipped for service and brought to maturity in Christ through the preaching and teaching of the Scriptures, and as individual believers use their Spirit-enabled giftedness to build up the whole body in love (Ephesians 4:11-16).

The Evangelization of the Lost. As disciples of Jesus Christ, our love for Him drives us to proclaim the good news of His gospel to everyone in our sphere of influence. Our bold confidence is that the gospel alone is the

power of salvation for all who believe (Romans 1:16-17). Therefore, we are careful to neither embellish the gospel to make it more appealing to natural human desires, nor to edit the gospel to remove its offensiveness to natural human sensibilities. We believe that as the church faithfully preaches and lives out the truth, God will draw and save whom He will.



We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Every church has its own distinct culture and patterns of body life. As you come to know the people of Saving Grace, you'll see members exercising their personal and individual preferences where Scripture gives us freedom within the boundaries of conscience, wisdom, and love for others. However, it is important to distinguish those aspects of church culture that are matters of personal preference from those that are intentionally practiced and encouraged by the leadership of the church.

We understand that some of these distinctives may be unfamiliar to you. We don't often have opportunities to talk about these things on Sunday mornings, so we thought it best to include them here in this booklet.

Expositional Teaching

As we've said before, the goal of Bible exposition is to give the author's original intent, and so to draw the author's meaning out of the text rather than read our own ideas and presuppositions into the text. We do this because we believe that the Word of God is our ultimate authority and that it is totally sufficient in its power to equip us to know, love, and obey Him, to guide corporate life in the church, and to act with wisdom in every area of our personal life.

What does exposition look like on Sunday morning? Since pastors spend many hours in study each week mining the riches of God's Word for the benefit of the church, it means that sermons are usually 45-60 minutes long, are typically part of an overall consecutive series of weekly expositions in a particular book of the Bible, and may include much moving back and forth between various Bible passages as the pastor clarifies and supports from the Scriptures the meaning and implications of the passage he is preaching.

If this kind of preaching is new to you, you may initially find it difficult to absorb everything you are hearing. However, if you give it time you'll find that you will quickly grow in your ability to follow along. As you do, you will also find that your appetite for the Word of God will grow increasingly stronger.

Biblical Counseling and Shepherding

Submitting to the truth should be a joy for the christian, but that doesn't mean that obedience and life transformation are always easy. We may be blind to certain sins in our life, or we may be aware of our sins and weaknesses but find that we're just not growing in the Lord as quickly or consistently as we would like. In such times, what we need is someone to help us accurately understand what God's Word says about us and our situation so that we may faithfully apply these truths in our life. What we need is effective shepherding and biblical counsel.

Pastors and elders are actively involved in shepherding as an essential part of their role as leaders, but speaking the truth in love should be something we all strive to do well. Discipleship is the regular and ongoing activity of pointing one another to Christ and to the truth in the everyday rhythms of body life. As you get to know us, you'll see that our members are often actively and lovingly engaged in discipling one another. We rejoice in this because it's a wonderful indication of the robust spiritual life that blooms and deepens wherever there is great confidence in the Word of God.

While shepherding can be characterized as the informal giving of wisdom, rebuke, and encouragement, biblical counseling is typically a more formal and scheduled practice of discipleship where a counselor (often one of the pastors or elders) meets with someone to discuss a particular spiritual matter in their life. We want to be clear that biblical counseling should not be confused with psychology or other forms of therapeutic counseling. At best, such methods rely on an impure mixture of human and divine wisdom. In contrast, biblical counseling gives God's wisdom from the Scriptures on a matter in a way that enlightens the mind and convicts the heart, and that leads to greater spiritual stability and maturity as the will is yielded to the Spirit of God in those matters.

Elder Rule

Every local church has a form of government. For some, it may be a single pastor. For others, it may be congregational rule. We believe that the Scriptures teach governance through a plurality

of biblically qualified men known as elders. The qualifications for the office of elder given in the New Testament mostly involve the character of the man, but they also include his ability to manage his family and his ability to teach the Scriptures.

At Saving Grace, our elder team is made up of both staff pastors and lay elders. These men lead the church as a group of peers rather than as a leadership hierarchy. However, we do obviously make a distinction among them when we use the terms “pastor” and “lay elder,” so it may be helpful for us to explain our reasons for doing so. All these men are biblically qualified elders in that they must meet the biblical requirements for the office and be presented before the congregation for public affirmation in that role. However, the men we call “pastors” have dedicated their lives to full-time gospel ministry and have completed seminary training in handling the Scriptures, and thus have a regular weekly pulpit ministry in the church.

What does “elder rule” look like in the life of the church? If your prior church practiced congregational rule, you are likely accustomed to church meetings where the members are asked to vote on various church matters. As part of our system of governance by a plurality of elders, the responsibility of making decisions for the church is vested in the board of elders, though they certainly strive to keep the church informed on matters that are important for the body to know. In addition, the elders also occasionally seek out the knowledge and insights of others in the church when necessary.

Fellowship and Discipleship

Fellowship is more than merely enjoying one another’s company. Genuine christian fellowship is intentional in nature, driven by love for Christ and for one another, and is empowered by the spiritual gifts given to every member of the church by the Holy Spirit. Some are gifted as encouragers, others as exhorters, and still others are gifted in ministries of helping, but all have something to share in the work of building up the body in love.

As you attend services, fellowship groups, studies, and other ministry opportunities, you’ll find that it is common for our members to openly discuss with one another how God is

working in their lives. This may be disconcerting if you're not accustomed to it, but rest assured that the intent is not to be intrusive, but rather to get to know you and to find ways to love and serve you. As you become more familiar with this aspect of body life, you'll grow to love and depend on it for your own spiritual growth, and you'll become a more useful tool in the Lord's hand for the growth of others.

Discipleship at Saving Grace is not a program or a system; it is an integral part of body life. It may occur organically among a small group of friends studying a book of the Bible, or it may be a more formalized one-on-one meeting time over coffee and a good Christian book between two men, or two women. However it may look and whatever resources may be used, the goal is always to help one another apply the Scriptures to life. While we are currently developing a set of discipleship resources for use in the church, discipleship will never be limited to those resources. Our hope is that all God's people would seek out discipling relationships for the sake of equipping and being equipped, each in accordance with their own unique ability and giftedness.

Deacon Ministry

The Scriptures don't give a detailed description or formula for deacon ministry, but it is clear from the few New Testament references that deacons are noted servants in the church who perform a variety of useful and necessary tasks. In doing so, deacons free the elders to focus on their primary role of overseeing and shepherding the church, provide a wonderful example of Christian service to the body of Christ, and become an active conduit for drawing others into loving and selfless service.

As servants, deacons do not hold a position of authority such as elders do, and so our body of deacons includes both men and women. Though deacons are not involved in governing the church, their example nonetheless influences the body of Christ to godliness and love, and they are greatly esteemed by the church for their exemplary service.



MINISTRIES OF SGBC

Adult Fellowship Groups

Unlike the main worship service, the format and smaller size of fellowship groups provide an occasion on Sunday mornings for participation, interaction, and fellowship around the Scriptures. As relationships are formed and strengthened in this less formal teaching environment, the body life of the church is also strengthened, leading to greater expressions of love and acts of service, greater depth of mutual prayer, and greater opportunities for discipleship.

Fellowship groups typically feature verse-by-verse exposition through a book of the Bible and are led by a member of our pastoral staff. This teaching format has time for questions and group discussion and may also include the participation of others in the group who lead in corporate singing, prayer, or who may give a brief devotional or share a personal testimony.

Our Sunday morning Fellowship Groups meet in the Fellowship Hall. The Sojourners Fellowship Group meets at 9:00am during the first worship service and is led by Pastor Rusty Duckworth, and the GraceLife Fellowship Group meets at 10:45am during the second worship service and is led by Pastor Eric Borgstrom.

Home Groups

Home Groups meet in private homes every other week. The setting and size of Home Groups give ample time for true New Testament fellowship as spiritual friendships grow and deepen in the warmth of christian hospitality, as believers mutually sharpen and encourage one another in truth and love, and as the bonds of unity in Christ grow firm.

Home Groups are typically led by capable lay teachers and may teach a book of the Bible or a practical christian book that is good for edification. If you have questions about Home Groups, you can speak to the pastors of our Adult Fellowship Groups or speak directly with a Home Group leader.

Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry: The Men's Bible Study meets each Saturday morning at 8:00 am, and the goal of their time together is to develop and broaden the men's understanding of the Scriptures. In this, we want to compel the men to think carefully about truth, to build firm convictions in the essentials of sound biblical theology, and to honor Jesus Christ in their roles as husbands, fathers, churchmen, and in every area of life. Men and their sons 12 and older are welcome to attend.





Women's Ministry

The women of Saving Grace Bible Church enjoy a variety of opportunities for spiritual equipping, enrichment, and encouragement. Depending on the season, there are weekly Bible studies and prayer meetings as well as scheduled outings and special events. Our women's Bible studies are taught by capable and mature women in the church, and usually focus on spiritual growth, biblical womanhood, and on maturing in the important and unique roles women have.

College & Career Ministry

Our College & Career Ministry meets Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm and is aimed at young men and women in the college and early career years. The ministry is led by Pastor Nick Foerster and focuses on the unique spiritual needs and concerns of independent young adults. Meeting times and formats vary depending on the number of young men and women in the church in this season of life. They also have the opportunity to travel to the Devoted Conference in North Carolina each year with other young adults from like-minded churches.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Children's ministry is concerned with the spiritual life of the whole family and is overseen by Pastor Eric Borgstrom, our Pastor of Family Ministries. Our primary goal is to teach the children Scripture in an age-appropriate way, and to help them develop the skills of active and attentive listening so crucial to learning as they grow older.

However, we are also intentional in our relationship and communication with parents as well. We encourage parents to serve in children's ministry to hone their own ability to teach and manage their children, and we also make sure parents are kept informed of their child's progress and behavior in the classroom. In all of this, our aim is to partner with parents in their calling to teach their children to know and love the Lord.

Our Sunday morning children's ministry is comprised of two main teaching times, and we use the Generations of Grace (GoG) curriculum for both our Sunday School and Children's Church classes. GoG takes children through the entire Bible once every 3 years and goes continually deeper as the children mature and grow in their ability to comprehend. Rather than making the human biblical characters the focus of the lessons, GoG is designed to magnify God by studying the perfections of His character.

Children's Church is at 9:00 am during the first service and is for children ages 3 through 5. It features a time of teaching, but also a time of singing as well as activities to supplement what is taught in the lesson.

Children's Sunday School is at 10:45 am, is for children ages 3 through 6th grade, and is separated into three classes based on age: 3-5-year olds, 1st-3rd grade children, and 4th-6th grade children. Like Children's Church, there are often activities to supplement and reinforce the lesson, but particularly with the older children, the Sunday School format gives our teachers the time to teach more comprehensive lessons.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Kids4Truth is 6:45 pm on Wednesday nights and is for children ages 4-11. Kids4Truth is intense truth for young minds where they learn foundational doctrines straight from the Bible in a fun and engaging way. This excellent kid's program is designed to teach children biblical truth about the character of God while holding them accountable to Scripture memorization each week. They are rewarded with "Bible Bucks" to spend in the award store twice a year, and with patches they earn based on the verses they memorize. Ultimately, our goal is to equip their young minds and hearts with a deep well of biblical truth that the Spirit of God can one day use to show them their need for faith in Jesus Christ.

All our children's ministry teachers and workers go through a background check, and we are always careful to follow best practices for the safety and security of your children.



STUDENT MINISTRY



The Saving Grace Youth Ministry is for grades 7-12 (minimum age of 12), and is led by Nick Foerster, Pastor of Young Adult Ministries. Like all our other teaching and fellowship ministries, the focus is on the faithful exposition of God's Word. Armed with a solid foundation of sound doctrine as well as an accurate understanding of God's character, our students are taught how to apply biblical truth to their lives and to the world around them and are encouraged to ask questions to build their understanding. Our Youth Fellowship Group meets in the youth building at 10:45 am on Sunday mornings.

On Wednesday evenings, Pastor Nick meets with the youth at 6:45 pm for an evening of fellowship and teaching. You can check our ministry calendar to view the scheduled meeting dates for this study.

Once a month, our students enjoy additional activities which may include a game night, miniature golf, volleyball at the beach, and much more. Each get-together includes a time of fellowship centered around guided activities as well as a teaching time led by Pastor Nick. These monthly activities can also be found on our ministry calendar.

STUDENT MINISTRY



PROCLAIM

JR. HIGH RETREAT



ABIDE

Summer Camps: Each July, our students can attend the ABIDE Camp. Pastor Nick, along with several volunteers, accompany the youth to camp for six days. Throughout the week of teaching at ABIDE, the youth are provided multiple challenges from God's Word each day, breakout sessions on key spiritual issues, and Q & A times with other pastors from like-minded churches. The youth also have regular small group times with our youth ministry leaders to allow for deeper discussion and personal interaction on the things they've been learning. The week at camp also includes team competitions, campfires, swimming, games, fellowship, food, and most importantly, lots of opportunities to hear sound biblical truth.

Since we also want our junior high students to benefit from the intensive and exciting nature of camp ministry, we have also organized PROCLAIM, a junior high retreat for our students in grades 7 and 8. This is a valuable time for students to hear the truth and to build relationships with other students and youth leaders.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

We believe that outreach should be the heart of every christian. This may take the form of meeting the needs of those within the church, personal evangelism to friends, family, and neighbors in the local community, and international efforts to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

In local evangelism, while small teams from the church do occasionally reach out to nearby neighborhoods, the majority of local outreach is focused on equipping all our members to be active witnesses in their neighborhoods and spheres of influence.

Pastor Rusty Duckworth oversees our ministry of outreach and assimilation locally and within the church. In this role, he serves as the contact point for those outside the church who make inquiries into the ministry, and to those within the church who may need help or visitation, or assistance with integration into ministry life.

For international outreach, our Missions Committee is responsible for oversight of our supported missionaries who are committed to preaching the biblical gospel and planting and building faithful churches in other nations and regions of the world. All the missionaries we support are listed on the church website under the "ministries" tab.





THE EXPOSITORS SEMINARY

In the spring of 2023, Saving Grace Bible Church became the 12th campus of The Expositors Seminary. This church-based seminary combines rigorous academic training with valuable ministry experience under the careful shepherding of seasoned pastors. Training men for ministry is part of our DNA at Saving Grace, whether that is training men for vocational ministry, or men who simply desire the benefits and increased usefulness that come with formal ministry training.

Our seminary classes are conducted at our classroom facilities and staff offices at 211 South Keystone Road in Venice. For more information about The Expositors Seminary, check out the relevant section of the Saving Grace Bible Church website, or make an appointment to speak with one of our staff pastors.

It is a high privilege bestowed upon us by the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, to train the next generation of servants to shepherd the flock of God. And there is no better way for the local, visible Church, to support the universal, invisible Church than by identifying, training, equipping, and affirming men who will take what they have been entrusted and teach others also (2 Tim 2:2). Our hope is to produce churchmen loyal to Christ who labor diligently to and for the Church."

Pastor Marc Wragg





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