

VBS 2018 RECAP

What a great week of fun! **Vacation Bible School was a huge success.** This year's theme was "Time Lab" where we traveled back in time and witnessed epic events in history. We met great heroes of the faith like Abraham, Moses and Gideon. But we also met the most important Man ever — a Man who was not just a man but who was also God. One who turned the world upside down. One who existed outside of time. Of course the Man we are talking about is Jesus Christ.



We had over 60 children attend VBS this year, and 7 of those children accepted Christ as their personal Savior for the first time, and we had another that recommitted her life to Christ! We had games, snacks, crafts, and a time where the kids learned our theme songs (and the motions) as well as memorized scripture! They had classroom teaching times that were called **Simulation Stations** where each day they learned a "C" word. The words were: **Creation, Christophany, Cross, Clouds and Crown**, one word each of the 5 days. It started with Creation, and we talked about how Jesus existed when the heavens and the earth and all that is in it was created. We talked about Jesus appearing in the Old Testament, Jesus at the Cross, His resurrection, and how He will come for us and we will spend eternity with Him in heaven. **It was an amazing week for sure.**

We had over 70 volunteers that helped with everything from painting posters to hanging Slinky's from the ceiling, to baking delicious treats for the kids. We can't say thank you enough to all those who helped. This year's VBS would not have been possible if it weren't for every single person that was involved. From those who donated props to those who taught, to leading singing, it all made Vacation Bible School possible. So thank you! **God really used you!** *It made an impact on the future of all the kids that attended!* We can't wait until next year!



Name Change Proposal Edition

July 15, 2018



Rationale:

With a burden to reach our community for Jesus Christ and to glorify God in the process, the Elders, Deacons and Pastors have felt led of the Lord to prayerfully and humbly suggest the consideration of a new name with which to identify our church. "...Find common ground with everyone so that we might bring them to Christ and [do this] to spread the Good News, and in doing so enjoy its blessings" (1Cor.9:22b-23 NLT).

Our consideration of such an undertaking is as follows:

- ✦ We want to increase our potential for active visitation from those seeking a church family and to encourage our members to invite friends and family to our church.
- ✦ Our current church name is often a barrier to people visiting as "Berean" is an increasingly unknown Bible term to many Christians and most seekers, so they stay away rather than visit a church with a name that is not easily understood.
- ✦ The name "Berean" has a difficult pronunciation quality that is confusing to many and often not correctly enunciated in conversations and media outlets.
- ✦ An internet search of "Berean" reveals many aberrant views with which we do not want to be associated and that do not accurately reflect our doctrinal beliefs.
- ✦ Our upgraded and enhanced facilities provide a window of opportunity to coincide with a possible name change to highlight our new image.
- ✦ We recognize and value our current name, history and evangelical and dispensational doctrinal commitment in the greater Muskegon and Norton Shores Community.
- ✦ We will continue to be part of the Grace Gospel Fellowship, Grace Christian University (formerly Grace Bible College), Grace Ministries International and other ministries that support our Mid-Acts dispensational approach to the beginning of the Church the Body of Christ and the right division of Scripture.
- ✦ Our mission would be enhanced and enlarged with a more "user friendly" church name for those seeking a new church home in our growing community.

The Name Change Committee and the Elder and Deacon Board made unanimous decisions, with the full support of our pastors to present to our church family a new name in keeping with our rationale and reasoning. The suggestion of this new name in part came from an anonymous church member and we now offer it and other input from suggestions from our congregation along the same line to reinforce and support our unanimous vote **for the new name of our church to be: (next page...!)**



Anchor Point Bible Church

“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...” Hebrews 6:19

A Little History and Looking Ahead:

- 1920's** Several Name Changes to current Berean Church
- 1970's – Present** Ongoing formal and informal discussions of Church Name Change. SWOT analysis determined a name change was a healthy component to future growth and opportunity.
- March 19** Board Discussion renewed (from previous years) and commitment to prayer about possibility
- April 16** Elders Recommendation to Deacon Board for prayer & consideration of proceeding with process
- April 29** Full Board **Unanimous** Decision to proceed with exploration and formal committee appointment
- May 6** Name Change Committee Formed (4 board members, 4 congregants, 2 pastors)
- May 20** Introduction and Presentation to congregation of Committee and request for prayer support.
- May/June** Multiple Committee meetings. Many suggestions solicited and received from church family
- June 3** **Unanimous** Committee recommendation of proposed new church name to Full Board
- June 25** Full Board votes **Unanimously** for Name Change Committee recommendation
- July 15** Proposal to congregation of Anchor Point Bible Church
- July 22** Q & A opportunity with select Committee and Board members after worship service
- August 5** Q & A opportunity with select Committee and Board members after worship service
- Sept. 9, 2018 @ 11:00 a.m.** **Congregational Members vote for proposed name of Anchor Point Bible Church**

Highlights from the Proposal Presentation on July 15:

- The definition of an anchor is a heavy object that keeps a boat or ship from drifting away, holding and keeping the vessel in place whether in the harbor or in the midst of the sea, in calm waters as well as a storm.
- So, as we think of this definition of an anchor to be incorporated with the name of our church, it Points us to a safe place, secure, holding fast to the faith, hope and love we have in Christ. It represents a place that speaks forth the truth to keep lives from drifting as we look to our anchor of hope in Christ.
- We chose to put “**Bible**” with “**Anchor Point**” because of what Paul says in Ephesians 4:11-16:

“And he gave ... the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of

doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

- We love how this whole passage is talking about the body of Christ and it being held together, growing up together, building one another up and ultimately, being stable and mature... anchored to the Truth found only in God’s Word and in Christ.

Hebrews 6:17-19a says: “So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.”

- We love this anchor we have in a God who keeps His promises. Because God does not lie, we can hold fast to the hope we have of Christ’s return and of life spent with Him in eternity... “A sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.” The message we would like our church to represent to the community is that we are:

- ⇒ A Point to drop anchor and be safe, secure and grounded in the absolute Truth of the Gospel.
- ⇒ A place to come to know our Promise Keeping God more intimately.
- ⇒ A place to grow together as a body of believers who love Him with all our hearts and show that love to others, a body that is mature, not tossed about without the stability of “*Christ in you, the hope of Glory*” as an anchor for our souls.

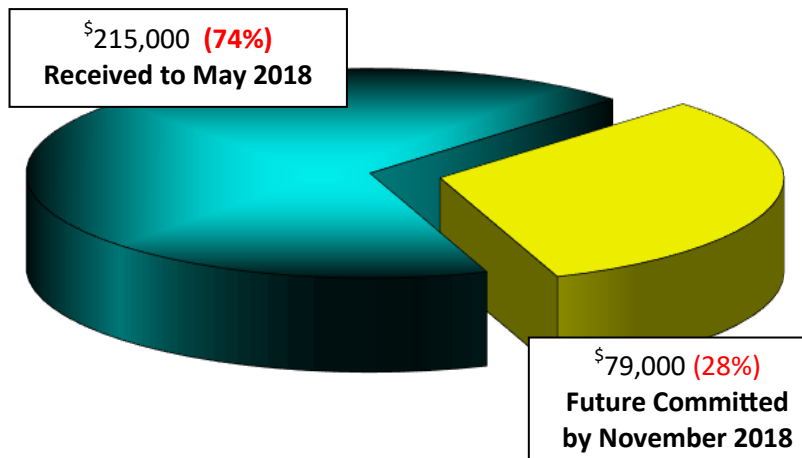
- Many suggestions from the congregation included the desire to add the word “**Bible**” to our new name. The Name Change Committee and Church Board all believe unanimously that the inclusion of “**Bible**” in our name is an important development and identification of who we are and what we believe, with the Bible at the center of all we do.

- It carries forward the “Berean” heritage with the focus on studying and applying the Scriptures. We always have been in spirit and commitment and will continue to be a “Bible Church” and proudly make this a centerpiece of our identity as a church.

- Lastly... We believe that the selection of the new name “**Anchor Point Bible Church**” also goes well with our physical location being near the shores of so many lakes and having a nautical theme in our Norton Shores community. After the selection of the new name, several realized a connection with John Bultema (the late son of the founder of our church), who spent his life in the naval and maritime industry and very much loved the current anchor logo of our church. Our desire is to honor the legacy of those who have gone before us with a new name and renewed passion to reach our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ and the truth of God’s Word.



Anchor Point Bible Church



Generous Life
1 ½ Year Growth and Giving Update
Total offerings and 2-year Commitments
\$294,000



Middle School and High School

End of Summer Road Trip

August 19-20th Cost is \$120.00

(includes: Ticket, transportation, lodging, and a few meals)
Sign-up at the Connection Point or call the office 231-780-4765 by July 29th.
\$60.00 Deposit due by August 5th remainder due on the 19th