



## Newsletter

October 2008

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Steve Luxa  
Lead Pastor

### Message from Steve

In case you haven't noticed, we're in an election year. So we've been inundated with debates, sound bites, ads, political bantering, and policy positioning. And there's been a range of responses to that political fervor, from complete indifference to the election to fervent enthusiasm for their position in the election. So as followers of Christ, how should we approach this election? How should we think about it now and afterward?

Recently, I ran across an article written by Charles Colson that got me ruminating. He referenced Augustine's classic treatise, *The City of God*, which was written to give followers of Christ perspective in the midst of political chaos in their day. Augustine wrote *The City of God* in a day when the political system was in a shamble and followers of Christ were asking themselves, "What now? How should we respond?" And although he wrote in the midst of a political chaos that we can scarcely imagine, Augustine provides wisdom for us in our current political environment, as Charles

# THE GREAT PUMPKIN GIVEAWAY



**Cider, Face Painting, Food, Bouncy Houses, Entertainer *Wayne from Maine* and most importantly...FREE Pumpkin.**

**Saturday October 18 from 10am to Noon at Central Park in Andover**

## GracePoint Mom's Group

**Mothers of all ages are invited to join the GracePoint Mom's group.**

**We tackle marriage and child rearing issues using the Christ-centered Mom to Mom series Heart Talk created by Grace Chapel's Linda Anderson.**

**The GracePoint Mom's group meets bi-weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30am. Our October dates are the 9th and 23rd. The location is Veasey Park in Groveland, MA.**

**Childcare is provided. For more information, contact Jessica Mitchell at**

**[gracepointmoms@gmail.com](mailto:gracepointmoms@gmail.com).**

Colson points out.

In *The City of God*, Augustine introduces us to the idea that we live both in the City of God and the City of Man. As followers of Christ, we live in the City of Man but do not belong to it, for our true residence is the City of God. But Augustine also taught that if we enjoy the blessings of the City of Man, then we must assume the obligations of citizenship. Or as Jesus said in Matthew 22:21, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's." In short, we should vote, consciously and prayerfully, out of love for God and our neighbors.

So if you are not registered to vote, register to vote in Massachusetts. The deadline in Massachusetts is October 15th, so you still have time. Go to [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howreg.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howreg.htm) to get more details on how. Then get up on the issues and where the candidates stand on the issues we care about most as followers of Christ, the environment, the poor, the beginning and end of life issues, and the family and marriage. Then vote on November 4th and do so consciously and prayerfully.

Then when November 5th comes, whether the outcome matches your vote perfectly or not, the City of God will still remain, for it is built by God and sustained by God. Though we may be tempted to wallow in pity or revel in celebration, Jesus will still have all authority on heaven and earth, so as Jesus also said in Matthew 22:21, "[Give] to God what is God's." Continue your efforts, energy, and prayers toward advancing the kingdom of God on earth. Continue undeterred to be Jesus' agents of bringing the up there in heaven down here to the realities of our earth.

So as the election approaches, prepare to vote prayerfully and consciously, for we live in the City of Man. But when the election is over with, let's get back to building the city of God, for our ultimate hope is in Christ to change our world, not our politics.

Prayerfully Voting Alongside You,



## Outreach Links

Did you know you can stay up to date with many of the local and international organizations we support as a church online? Check out the links below.....

**"Face of a Child" in Moldova** - Little Samaritan Mission - Remember to be praying for our team that leaves for Moldova in October. Keep up to date with what is going on in Moldova and affecting the lives of "our" kids.

<http://www.littlesamaritan.org/>

**Alyssia Holladay** - Currently serving in Rwanda - keep up with her activity on her blog. <http://alyssainrwanda.blogspot.com/>

**Place of Promise** - Be sure to check for current newsletters and prayer items. <http://www.placeofpromise.org/>

## GracePoint Blog

Come visit the GracePoint blog! A blog is a simple communication tool that can be used and accessed by anyone. Steve, Ryan and others will post

## Current Sermon Series



One of the Bible's repeated references is to "One Another." Love one another. Honor one another. Serve one another. Encourage one another. Live in harmony with one another. "One Another" is repeated over and over and over again. Why? Because we are wired for community and connection with one another. So join us as we explore being the body of Christ with one another through the end of November where we experience Christ through one another and our world see Christ through it.

## Financial Update

**Below is an update of our financial status through September 2008.**

*(Our fiscal year runs from May 1, 2008 - April 30, 2009.)*

**Total Revised Budget: \$336,227**

**YTD Budget (5 mos.): \$140,095**

**YTD Giving (5 Mos.): \$97,845**

**YTD Difference: -\$42,250**

**Cash Reserve as of the end**

read. We will highlight everything from the ministries of our church, the people of GracePoint, and local events that impact the community in which we serve.

<http://gracepointne.blogspot.com/>

Quick Links

[Register Now](#)

[More About Us](#)



**of September (not designated)= \$103,000**

**Average September Attendance: 121** (includes KidsTown)

GracePoint Community Church  
(978) 681-6483  
[GracePointNE.org](http://GracePointNE.org)