

TRUNK OR TREAT-OCTOBER 31ST If

you have never been part of this event, you don't want to miss an opportunity to be part of it this year! Everyone decorates their car trunk/back



end and has candy available for the little ones who will be coming by from the neighborhood as well as the little ones in our church. A prize for the "best" decorated vehicle! We want to be sure we have our parking lot filled with decorated cars/trucks, etc., so start planning now! Watch for a sign up table by the front doors beginning October 4th!



Connect With Us

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ANNUAL DINNER & BUSINESS MEETING-September 16th-5pm

Join us on Sept. 16th for a delicious spaghetti dinner at 5:00 p.m. (sign up in the narthex), followed by our Annual Business Meeting at 6:00pm This year we will not only be ratifying two new elder candidates (Cindy Underwood and Joyce Weightman), the Proposed 2016 Church Budget, the Church Treasurer, Elaine Plante, and Recording Secretary, Lisa Hill, also we will be voting on some very important changes to our Church Bylaws. This is an important meeting that all Vista Grande Church family members should attend. Copies of the Proposed changes to the Church Bylaws, as well as the Proposed Church Budget for 2016 are available at the table by the Welcome Center for you to review before the meeting. Please direct any questions to the Council of Elders Chair, Jesse Hill before the 16th if possible. His phone number is 651-3125. To vote in this business meeting you must meet the Eligibility Requirements printed on the front of the Voter Registration Card available at the table by the Welcome Center. If you meet these requirements, and have never voted in our business meetings before, please sign and date the card and put in mailbox #2 before September 16th.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, but would like to vote, Absentee Ballots are available from Christine Tschamler or in the church office (Tues.-Fri., 8:30am-4pm).



Sign up today in the fellowship hall to have your picture taken for the new church directory.

Vista Grande Church of God

CONNECTION

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WOMEN'S RETREAT BAKE AUCTION

The women of Vista Grande (or at least 30 of them—and it's not too late to sign up ladies!) are going on a Women's Spiritual Retreat, October 9-11, at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO.

On **Sunday, September 13th** they will be sponsoring a **Bake Auction** to help raise money for curriculum and other materials needed for the retreat.

If you have never attended an "auction" hosted by auctioneer, *Merv Bennett*, then you are in for a treat or many treats depending on how much money you bring that Sunday!

The auction will take place immediately following morning worship. Plan to join us in the fellowship hall and pick up a little something for dessert on Sunday!

The ladies going on the retreat will be baking up a storm, and if you are not attending the retreat, but would like to donate a baked good(s) for the auction, it would be gratefully accepted.



FRIDAY NIGHT at the MOVIES at VGC

Join us on **Friday, September 25th at 6:30 p.m.** for the "laugh-out-loud movie, *Mom's Night Out*.

PREVIEW: All Allyson and her friends want is a peaceful, grown-up evening of dinner and conversation...a long-needed mom's night out. But in order to enjoy high heels, adult conversation and food not served in a paper bag, they need their husbands to watch the kids for three hours...what could go wrong?

Bring a snack to share if you like. We will have popcorn!



OUR CHURCH VISION

We will become a unified fellowship, deeply devoted to *Fervent Prayer, Meaningful Worship, Nurturing Discipleship, and Loving Outreach*, through the divine guidance of the HOLY SPIRIT.

DEPENDENCE

from Jeff Ingram's blog on 9/2/15

Dependence: The state of relying on or being controlled by someone or something else.

When water started coming in my house, we had to have a structural engineer come, jack-hammer up some of our floor and put a drain in. I looked at our savings, people had helped, I crunched the numbers and thought, "We can weather this."

Halfway into the work he called me to tell me he had come across a pipe that drains to the sewer. It was corroded. He offered to help fix it, but soon discovered all of the pipes under my house were corroded. He was going to have to replace them all. I dropped by one evening to check on the progress. You can check out my Facebook page to see what I found.

I felt like God said, "How about this? Can you weather this, Sparky?" No. Not any of it. For the past four months I have been utterly dependent. I've needed help from my kids, contractors, co-workers and congregation. I have no control over the timetable, the work or the cost. I am completely out of my depth.

And we have been beautifully cared for. Our family, friends, church, and work have given us so much money it's embarrassing. Half of the cost has been covered. They have repaired the walls and are offering to do more, even while we're traveling.

Because of our life in missions, I thought I had dealt with the dependence issue. For 19 years I've been asking for help. But this has been a wake up call for me. I still think I'm in control. I'm not. I'm one corroded pipe away from a meltdown.

Dependence is the antithesis of American culture. And it is at the heart of the Gospel. Thank you, everyone, for loving us so well and reminding me of our need, not only for God, but for each other.

A LITTLE ABOUT THE INGRAMS



For the past 17 years, Jeff and Nancy have worked with ReachBeyond. Reach Beyond is

a media and healthcare ministry that works with partners around the world to help local believers build their own radio stations, clinics, water projects through support and education. For example, they have satellite broadcasts that are listened to by over a million homes in the Muslim world and have "planted" over one hundred radio stations across Asia. They have dug wells in Africa, operated hospitals and clinics in South America, built a birthing clinic in Nepal. You can check out the website at <http://reachbeyond.org>

Over the years Nancy has worked as a school nurse and administrative assistant, while Jeff has worked in radio and mission leadership. They've served in and raised their two boys in Quito, Ecuador and Singapore. Because of their years in ministry and life experience, five years ago the mission asked them to move back to the U.S. and head up their pastoral care department. So now, Nancy and Jeff travel to visit and encourage their missionaries wherever they may be living. The unique aspects of cross-cultural living takes a toll on marriages, families, teams and friendships. So, basically, they work to help keep missionaries spiritually and emotionally healthy enough to stay on the field.

Jeff serves on the Council of Elders at VGC. Nancy is very active with hospitality and Wednesday night dinners. The Ingrams through ReachBeyond, are one of the ministries Vista Grande supports through our 10% tithe to outreach missions.

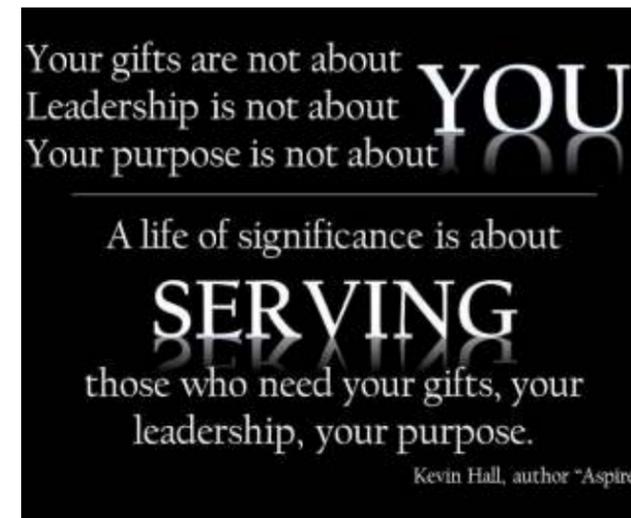
SERVING AT SAMARITAN'S KITCHEN

Samaritan's Kitchen, sponsored by Springs Rescue Mission, opens its doors 6 days a week with a message and a meal, to the homeless, working poor, and families with children, anyone who needs a meal.

Springs Rescue Mission is a non-profit, faith-based charity. Their mission is to partner with and engage the local church and community to serve the poor and homeless, feed the hungry, and minister to the addicted with the transforming message of the Gospel. They are interdenominational and work with a wide range of churches, organizations, donors, and volunteers.

Vista Grande Church serves supper to those who need a hot meal, at Samaritan's Kitchen the 4th Tuesday of every month. In addition to a hot meal, we serve fellowship, and the Love of Christ.

If you would like to help be the "hands and feet" of Christ to others, sign up at the table in the narthex of the church. For the month of September only, we will be serving on the 5th Tuesday, **September 29th**. We meet at the Springs Rescue Mission, 5 West Las Vegas. Our shift is from 4:35-6:00pm. For more information, please contact coordinator, Heather Reed at 271-0495.



MERCY'S GATE INAUGURAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

A volunteer at Mercy's Gate, Randall Reynolds, is working to raise more than \$10,000 this year for this amazing ministry, by running a golf tournament. This will be a scramble format at Monument Hill Country Club in Monument, CO. The event will take place on **September 28th** at **9:00 a.m.**

For those of you who are not familiar with Mercy's Gate, it is a non-profit organization serving a specific sector of Colorado Springs who are in need of rental assistance, utility assistance, food assistance, as well as spiritual care and emotional support.

Vista Grande supports Mercy's Gate through monthly food donations, yearly bulk food collection, and a portion of our 10% tithe to outreach missions.

This is a great opportunity, if you are a golfer, to enjoy a great day of golf at a wonderful country club setting, while helping those in need in our community.

Registration forms are available in the church office. More information is available at mercysgatecs.org.



Mercy's Gate
BRINGING PEOPLE FROM CRISIS TO HOPE

CHILDREN'S BIBLE QUIZZING

Children's Quizzing is a Bible Study for children in grades 1-6. It is important to help children know what the Bible says and help them demonstrate biblical teachings in actual life situations. The goal of Children's Bible Quizzing is for children to know the God of the Bible. There are tournaments where quizzing teams quiz against each other.

This year Vista Grande is doing Children's Quizzing on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm. This year we will be quizzing on the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth.



Children will have the choice whether they want to compete in tournaments or not.

If you would like more information on this year's Children's Bible Quizzing, please contact coordinators: Jill Eich, 719-351-6244, Elaine Plante, 574-6448 or Angela Merckx, 719-231-2124.

SPOTLIGHT ON VGC CHILDREN



This month we are congratulating **Katie Plante** for her participation and placing at 4H events at this year's Colorado State Fair. Katie placed 7th out of 23 entries for Dress Making, and 9th out of 36 entries for Cake Decorating.



Every newsletter we will be highlighting VGC kids and their accomplishments or special moments. If you have something special "way to go!" you want to give your child, please email the church office at ehanawalt@vistagrandechurch.org or call the church office at 598-5511.

SENIOR BIBLE QUIZZING

Youth or Senior Bible Quizzing is a lot like what the children do. The ages for Senior Quizzing are 12 years-18 years.

Bible Quizzing requires discipline and responsibility of individual young people and test their ability to cooperate as a team. An Experienced quizzer must learn over 500 selected verses from the word of God to be able to compete efficiently and must be able to answer questions from any of the verses they are studying that year. This year the Youth Quizzers are focusing on the following books of the Bible: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon.

To the casual observer, Bible quizzing is a sport in which two teams match knowledge, speed, memory, and quickness of response against one another on a designated portion of Scripture. However, however, offers much more than just competition and sport. The program involves falling deeply in love with the Word of God. By becoming involved in memorization, young people develop a love and respect for the Bible. The Word is planted in their hearts and dynamically changes their lives. If you have a youth who might be interested in this kind of challenge, the Youth Quizzers meet Sunday afternoons at the church from 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. For more information contact coordinators: Julie Kennedy, 765-606-4284, or Christine Tschamler, 719-641-7946.



ADULT STUDY MOVIE NIGHTS

September 9th and 23rd, 6:00 p.m.

⇒ *Wednesday, Sept. 9th—"Search for the Real Mt. Sinai"* - Two explorers take an incredible expedition into the blistering Arabian Desert and turn up what many scholars believe to be one of the greatest discoveries in history...the real Mount Sinai, the holy mountain on which Moses -received the Ten Commandments. This movie tells their amazing story. This DVD tells the amazing story how they crawl into forbidden military installations, and use night vision goggles to avoid being detected as they pursue their mission and discover over a dozen significant remnants still remaining at the site. Weaving together real life adventure, historical research and exclusive never-before-released footage, this exciting adventure leaps off the screen to document a story you'll never forget.

⇒ *Wednesday, September 23rd—"Life's Story—The One That Hasn't Been Told"* - What does modern DNA research now prove about the theory that simple cells evolved into all life on earth? The answer? Simply that evolution is impossible. So why is this information being kept from the general public? Should Darwin's theories still be taught as "facts" in our educational institutions?

In a wildlife program unlike any other seen before, you will discover the story of life itself. This program examines the long held beliefs that have been the foundation of natural selection for more than 150 years. Learn about the abilities of the parrot fish and dolphins, the habits of ostriches and wildebeest, and the skills and instincts of cheetahs, giraffes and lions.

Filmed and researched over a five year period in more than ten different countries, *Life's Story* explores all these issues and many more in one of the most visually stunning and informative wildlife productions available today. Join us in the church library on the 9th and 23rd. Come at 5:00p.m. and enjoy a light supper before class.

SOUL KEEPING: Caring for the Most Important Part of You—

THE DEEP LIFE....Anxiety, Depression, Fear, Loneliness. These are all symptoms of a soul that has lost touch with its source of life. Like a flower plucked from the vine, the soul that is not turned toward God can only wither away.

In *Soul Keeping*, best selling author, John Ortberg sheds light on the most overlooked, underrated, and least-understood part of your being. With a workable and relevant approach, he shows how living the "with God" life isn't just a good idea—it's the only way to find lasting peace and satisfaction.

When we are preoccupied with unhealthy habits, Ortberg says, when we are not centered in God, our soul cries out in distress. When you choose to live a shallow life, one that only skims the surface of spirituality, your soul shrivels from neglect.

Jesus calls us to a deep life, one that goes beyond our everyday interests and desires. A rested, well-cared-for soul has the capacity to empathize and understand profoundly to ask questions and not simply go through the motions of faith. It holds our connection to eternity and can help us see past the petty concerns of the present. It has access to the kind of peace, gratitude, freedom, and blessing that comes only from a heavenly well-spring.

Your soul is waiting. It longs to return to its true resting place, its *only* resting place—God/ It's time to go home.

Join Pastor Greg, facilitator, beginning **Wednesday, September 30th, 6:00 p.m. in the Library** for some "soul care".