

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

May 2019

MetroGrace is developing gospel-centered, community-based churches with Crossroads Community Church of Philadelphia in the neighborhoods of Holmesburg, Wissinoming and Bridesburg.



Crossroads' Annual Egg Hunt was a great success!

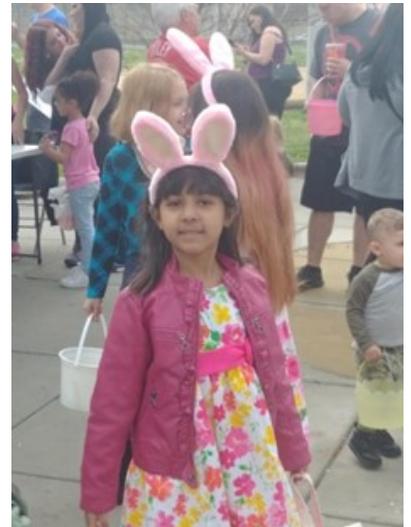
We were joined by newlyweds Anthony and Katie Elliot who drove all the way from Pittsburgh to help us!

About twenty of our people helped, registering people, hiding eggs, playing games with the kids, handing out snacks and gathering people to hear the gospel at Russo Park on Torresdale Avenue. (New leadership at the city-owned park has been much more accommodating to our church. Please pray for continued favor as we plan for future outreach events there.)

Before setting up, we had a moment of prayer for the event. It had rained that morning, and the forecast was for scattered showers. As we were praying, the clouds parted and the sun shone through, drying up the grass and warming the event. It was a wonderful start, seeing the God of creation at work in the small things.

Over eighty people had registered online, about one hundred kids showed up to participate. Adding volunteers and parents, there were about one hundred and seventy people gathered in the park. This was huge and a major encouragement! And it was great to see Anthony and Katie interacting with our people and welcoming families to the egg hunt!

After eating our share of greasy food at Nifty Fifty's, we called it a day.



The next morning, the Elliots joined us for our Palm Sunday service.

They helped decorate the church with palm branches, learning to fold palm leaves into crosses. Now they were ready to welcome folks, teach them to fold crosses and share how the symbolism relates to the gospel. Again, it seemed natural how they interacted with our own people and visitors. They were such an encouragement to our team over the weekend!



Thank you for supporting MetroGrace this month! Please include this cut-off with your next gift and use the back to indicate any changes to your contact information.

Name: _____

Enclosed is my gift to support:

- Jim and Lisa Brown \$ _____
- General Fund \$ _____
- Other \$ _____

**7721 Torresdale Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19136
215-533-3396
www.metrograce.org
Dr. Jim Brown,
Executive Director**

During Holy week, MetroGrace churches held two Threefold Communion Services.

Several people participated in this ordinance for the first time. During the foot washing portion, a seventy-nine year old woman knelt before a younger woman to wash her feet. With a heavy accent and tears in her eyes, the younger woman shared what a blessing it was to be a part of the service.

Over lunch, we talked with the Elliots about their plans to move to Philly in a couple years to help with the ministry. As we look forward to their help, we couldn't help but feel sad that they had to leave.



We are in desperate need of mature Christians to commit themselves to serving the Lord in an urban setting like ours. Not all people have been wired that way, and we recognize not all people have been called by the Lord to serve in Philly. But I am also convinced that God has certainly not called the vast majority of Christians to continue living and serving in suburban settings simply because it's deemed safer and more comfortable. There are millions in the city who are lost, dying and headed to hell without Jesus. We need workers. I'd like to ask you to prayerfully consider whether the Lord would have you move here to help us. If not you, then who? Drop me a note! pete@metrograce.org



This month, Pete Forshtay plans to sit for his ordination exam. He has been serving as a licensed pastor for a few years now. In the Charis Fellowship, pastors must demonstrate their qualification to serve before ordination. Pete has shown himself to be a faithful shepherd. Please pray for him and the district examination board as they gather in Bridesburg this month.

Please pray with us for a church planter or intern who will move into the Bridesburg neighborhood and work to develop a gospel-centered, community-based congregation. The Lord has provided us with a small facility on Orthodox Street, the primary road through the community. Our team has been making contacts in the neighborhood. We're building relationships with some. So we're looking for a qualified leader with a vision for urban ministry who can invest in growing and shepherding a church family. Thanks for your prayers!

I would like to add or change my address, phone number or email address: