

# METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

December 2025

Member of  CHARIS FELLOWSHIP



Pastor Jim Brown—[jabrown215@yahoo.com](mailto:jabrown215@yahoo.com)

This fall has been full! The Lord used conversions, baptisms and communion to grow His church.

Last month the congregation was glad to gather for Threefold Communion. It's a special time to focus on the past, present and future blessings of the cross.

Believers at Crossroads were eager to commemorate the Last Supper from John 13. They



ceremonially washed each others' feet, remembering the need for continual cleansing. They shared the Love Feast, looking with hope toward the fellowship of heaven.

And they recalled the sacrificial death of Christ while partaking of the Bread and Cup.



Later in the month, Crossroads gathered with Word of Grace for a Thanksgiving Eve service. It was great to sing songs of gratitude to the



Lord! And, it was encouraging to hear many testimonies about the ways that God is working. Worshippers gave generously to support the ministry of Whosoever Gospel Mission. Children, teens and adults enjoyed a time of fellowship, connecting around the work of the Lord. It's a blessing to see believers in the city giving thanks to God!



It's a privilege to serve the Lord in Philadelphia with these men and others. As we approach the Christmas season, we are eager to share the miraculous incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. We're praying that new friends would welcome Immanuel—God with us. And we're singing that ancient hymn that reflects on Christ's advent. But we're singing with eyes toward heaven awaiting His return: O Come, O Come Emmanuel! Merry Christmas!



*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:

General Fund	\$ _____
Jim and Lisa Brown	\$ _____
Pete and Danielle Forshtay	\$ _____
Rick and Kristin Dobrowolski	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____

**2417 Welsh Road Suite 21**  
**PMB#501**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19114**  
**215-533-3396**  
**[www.metrograce.org](http://www.metrograce.org)**  
**Dr. Jim Brown,**



**Pastor Rick Dobrowolski—rickdob7@icloud.com**



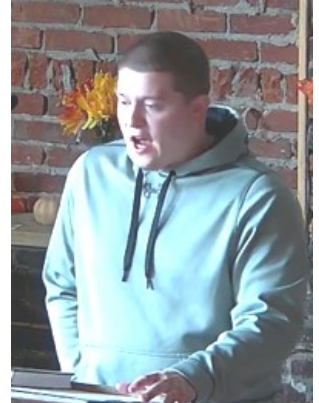
The winter steps up our time and effort in assisting our local homeless neighbors. With the dry yet cold conditions, the homeless experience greater risk of fires as they seek to survive. This picture shows a fire at the camp where we've been heading to for the longest. A fireman friend who has headed to this camp numerous times with me sent me this picture, which appears to show the fire destroying a structure that has housed numerous homeless individuals for a few decades. Harry, a homeless man who is thankfully now housed, had previously lived there for about 25 years himself, before passing it on to someone else. Please pray that we would have increased opportunities to minister physically and spiritually to the population of people there. The camp is currently at twenty people and it continues to increase as our city has been evicting homeless from land that is located on floodplains. Approximately 130 homeless have been forced to leave their locations over the last month.

A church located in another town reached out to us, asking if there were opportunities to serve Citylight next summer. We've been desiring to make an unrenovated portion of our building usable for quite some time, so in the summer of 2026 they will be bringing a group over to team up with us in renovating that space. I continue to be amazed at how the broader body of Christ thinks on our needs here in the city and steps in to fulfill them. I am often reminded that your prayers and ours are effective as God works in hearts.



**Pastor Pete Forshtay—peteforshtay@gmail.com**

Anthony Elliott first came to MetroGrace as a teen, serving on a mission team with his youth group. Later, he served the Lord through a summer internship that fueled his vision for urban ministry. He attended Grace



College where he met Katie.

They married, move to Pittsburgh for further education and then arrived in Philadelphia.

They serve with Pete and Danielle Forshtay at Word of Grace Church.

Anthony works as an engineer nearby; he is preparing for eldership.



And, Katie works as a school counselor in the city. God blessed them with a little girl, Josie. After renting for years and paying down school bills, they were able to buy their first house in the city last month!

Praise the Lord with us!

The Elliotts' calling, commitment and consistency is an example of what it means to live life on mission. The church family helped with the move, rejoicing with them.

Developing urban churches requires deep commitment over many years. MetroGrace is able to help congregations grow because of your faithfulness. Thank you for sharing!

***May the Lord bless you richly this Christmas!***