

METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

September 2018

MetroGrace connects **supporting, serving** and **stationed** partners to develop gospel-centered, community-based churches in urban neighborhoods.

September is the beginning of a new season for the urban churches of MetroGrace. Summer vacations are over, children are back in school and families embrace a new consistency. Please pray that many would develop the habit of congregational fellowship, growth, service, evangelism and worship.



Crossroads Holmesburg hosted a Vacation Bible School outreach last month. Families from the neighborhood brought their children for a week of singing, learning, crafting, snacking and fun. The church family worked together to care for students, share God's word and love their neighbors. It was great to have students from our youth ministry, Thrive, serving with the children. And, we received an offering to help the homeless at Whosoever Gospel Mission. Please pray that students reached through VBS would be added to Kingdom Kids, a weekly program for children. Please pray, too, for additional teachers to help serve children and their families.



Mike and Margarete Connor are developing a church planting team in the neighborhood of Rhawnhurst. Mike continues to work through his internship while he leads the weekly gathering and preaches. Please pray as he grows in his ability to shepherd. Please ask the Lord to bring some growing Christians who share his vision. Pray for a committed core group that will make disciples and establish the congregation. Praise the Lord for Sundaes on Sunday, an outreach event to connect with neighbors last month. Even though it rained that day, many new friends packed our small building, shared in fellowship and met our church planters. Pray for growing relationships that result in new birth.



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



This year has been full of unexpected changes. Our small group of urban leaders has worked hard to compensate and deal with transitions. Their teamwork has been an encouragement! Our outreach in Bridesburg has been impacted the most. Please pray for our work in this neighborhood. This month Jim and Lisa Brown will begin gathering a new team to develop this congregation. We're planning a weekly worship service on Sunday evenings, a mid-week growth opportunity and regular outreach events. Please ask the Lord to call neighbors out of the world to follow Him. Pray, too, for growing disciples committed to the church family in Bridesburg. Ask the Lord to call a church planter or intern to move into the community and grow with the church.

We're thankful for a very useful facility in Bridesburg. It is very manageable and even includes some parking, a rare commodity in the city. Recently, we learned that we need to replace the rooftop HVAC unit at a cost of \$7500. Our small urban churches are already stretching financially to reach out through church planting. Could the Lord use you to help provide heat and air? Every gift helps! Please mark your check, HVAC.

Last month, Pastor Pete and Danielle Forshtay hosted Anthony and Katie Elliott for a weekend of ministry. Anthony served as an intern at MetroGrace a few years ago. That weekend was unusually difficult; but, their presence and their words were a much needed morale boost! Witnessing the challenges of urban ministry only confirmed the Lord's direction in their lives; to eventually move to Philadelphia and join the team to serve our great God!



That Saturday, Crossroads Community Church gathered for Celebration 2018. This annual meeting enables congregations to reflect on God's work and look forward to the coming season. Participants heard about conversions, baptisms and growth. The group rejoiced in the impact of Bible Babes – reaching more than 60 women this year. They were encouraged by the service of Thrive, a ministry for students. And folks renewed their commitment to the difficult task of developing two new congregations.



Recalling God's work reminds people about some areas of frustration, too. Danielle shared that sometimes the team can pray, plan, prepare, promote and produce an outreach event, invite thousands of neighbors, and see very little response. Please pray for encouragement when hard work yields few results.

Just after Celebration 2018, Crossroads sponsored a community carnival in the parking lot at Bridesburg! Praise the Lord for friends from Grace Community Bible Church who helped! Leonard and Margie Ghem brought and set up the games. Pastor Shawn Kidder and some teens also served. Decorations, music, snacks, games and a prayer tent enabled Crossroads to reach out to the Bridesburg neighborhood. The team had fun and was able to speak with folks who attended, inviting them to church. Please pray that some would accept that invitation.

Please ask the Lord if He could use you and your family in Philadelphia! Mature Christians are needed to come alongside, serving to develop urban churches!

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