

# METROGRACE

Developing Urban Churches

**September 2019**

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

## Milestones

Throughout life we reach memorable moments that signal the progression of our journey. Those markers recognize personal achievements and help us express gratitude for God's blessing. These landmarks enable us to rejoice with family and friends. Last month at MetroGrace we had the opportunity to celebrate with Crossroads Community Church and Pete and Danielle Forshtay. On August 24th a standing-room-only crowd packed our small facility to witness the ordination of Pete Forshtay and share in the dedication of Pete and Danielle's daughter, Pearl. It was a joyous day full of love!



## Ordination

I came to know Pete about a dozen years ago. He told me that he was looking into several colleges; soon he began attending Philadelphia Biblical University. While at PBU, Pete began a two-year, urban ministry internship at MetroGrace. He graduated from PBU in 2013 with high honors. Soon, he passed his licensure exam in the Northern Atlantic District of the Charis Fellowship. By



2014, Pete was leading Crossroads Community Church in Wissinoming. Last May, Pete completed his ordination exam. And last month Crossroads Community Church of Philadelphia formally ordained Peter Forshtay to the Christian ministry.

Family came from Chicago and Ohio. Friends came from Pittsburgh, Lancaster, Bethlehem and Florida. And love ones throughout the Philadelphia region shared their joy. Mike Connor shared a pastoral job description from 1 Timothy 3. James Arleth communicated the recommendation from the



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 Dr. Jim Brown,  
 Executive Director**

Charis Fellowship. Jason Brown brought the formal declaration from the elders at Crossroads. And, I had the privilege of sharing the pastoral charge from 2 Timothy 4.



It was an honor to lay hands on Pete and pray for his consecration as an ordained pastor. The elders from Crossroads were joined by Doug Blocksom from Kernan Boulevard Baptist Church, Pastor Shawn Kidder from Grace Community Bible Church, Pastor Larry Humberd from Lehigh Valley Grace Brethren Church and Pastor Dan Birkholtz from Grace City Church.

Making a man of God takes a lifetime. Pete's family trained their child in the way he should go. Pete came to Christ through the faithful ministry of his Sunday School teacher. The youth pastor at his childhood church had a profound influence in Pete's life. God used the Marines, Danielle, PBU and spiritual mentors to guide his life. And Pete has worked

hard, proving himself to be a workman who need not be ashamed. The Spirit of God uses the word of God and the people of God to shape men and women of God. Who are the children, teens and young adults the Lord might use you to shape?

**Dedication**

To double the blessing, Pete and Danielle dedicated Pearl to the Lord that day!

The Forshtays have been married for fourteen years. They have prayed and waited a long time for God's blessing of a child. Many have prayed with them for God's work. So they wanted to share this important milestone with family and friends.



Pastor Shawn Kidder explained that child dedication was not a regenerative act. Instead, it is a parental commitment to lead children toward Christ. After explaining the biblical imperatives, Pastor Shawn invited the Forshtays to verbalize their commitment. They readily agreed to most commitments; and though they struggled with releasing their two-month old daughter to the Lord for His ministry – they agreed to that, too. ☺

**Beginnings**

Milestones can only be passed after the journey is begun. While the Forshtays are celebrating significant progress, others are just beginning. Last month I had the opportunity to begin working with Grace College students in the SUM (Studies in Urban Ministries) program. Students live and serve at CE National's Urban Hope Training Center. It's my privilege to share the biblical foundation for urban ministry and help students think through why they are doing the things they do. Please pray for these young people as they navigate the systems of the city and learn urban ministry experientially. Pray for continued progress in their journey. And ask the Lord to help some consider service in Philadelphia. Your faithful support enables us to serve with longevity in the city. Leadership development takes a long time. Thank you for standing with us to advance the gospel in the city!



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