



# New Name...New People!

by Gary Horton, Church Health Strategist, Southwest Region

**T**he doctor's heart was heavy. As he gave the diagnosis, the family began to weep. It was terminal; however, they were not shocked. For the past several years, they had known something was not quite right. In hindsight, all the signs indicated death.

Something similar happened at Ridgeview Baptist Church in Wise. After only 17 years of the church's existence, members were leaving, and the church had split several times. The diagnosis was terminal, and Ridgeview disbanded. The closing of a church is never good news, but sometimes it is the healthiest course of action.

In Revelation 21:4, John writes, "Death will exist no longer; grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer, because the previous things have passed away" (HCSB). For Ridgeview, this is exactly what happened—the previous things passed away.

Several months later, a PROBE was taken of the area, which discovered a great need in Wise for a church that would reach out to the community, especially to the students of the University of Virginia, Wise (UVA Wise). God provided Pastor Rob Haynes with just such a vision—to birth Gracepoint Church from the remnant of Ridgeview.

With a new name and, for the most part, new people, everything else has changed. Pastor Rob shares, "On any

given Sunday, there are usually between 25 to 50 college students in attendance." Gracepoint's new college ministry is reaching young adults and meeting their needs. Members are involved in various mission projects and have used the building to host several Christian concerts for the community.

Gracepoint's ministry is growing and making a difference. Leaders are being developed with hearts for missions and ministry. The doctor may say "terminal," but God can bring things back to life!

## RESOURCE

### ■ Websites:

[www.gracepointwise.org](http://www.gracepointwise.org)  
[www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)

### ■ SBCV Contact:

Call 888-234-7716 for details from your region's missionary.

### ■ Prayer:

Pray the local church will seek God's healthiest course of action.

