

Grace Notes

December 9, 2018

Mission Statement

*To draw people to Christ,
nourish their spirits, and
prepare them for service to God,
the Church, and the world.*

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

Sunday, December 9 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:30 am Fellowship Time
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:00 pm Cinderella's Closet Event/Your Pie
- 6:00 pm Grace Roots

Monday, December 10

- 4:30 pm Dreams of Wilmington/Youth Area
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:30 pm Police Athletic League Wrestling
- 7:00 pm Agape Circle

Tuesday, December 11

- 9:30 am KnitWerks@Panera
- 3:00 pm Dreams of Wilmington/Youth Area
- 6:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee

Wednesday, December 12

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 4:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
- 6:00 pm Boot Camp
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 13

- 12:00 pm Welcome Meal
- 1:00 pm Home School Class
- 3:00 pm Dreams
- 6:00 pm PAL Wrestling
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

Saturday, December 15

- 9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Gym

Sunday, December 16 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 am A Service of Joy and Anticipation
- 9:30 am Fellowship Time
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am A Service of Joy and Anticipation
- 6:00 pm Grace Roots

Mark Your Calendars!

A Service of Joy & Anticipation Sunday, December 16, 8:30 & 11:00 am

The third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as the Sunday of Joy. Through music and Scripture, these special services will celebrate the season of Advent with joy and anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



You are invited to make one of these services a part of your preparations for Christmas. You will be filled with the spirit of love and blessed by all you experience.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

If you have a prayer request, please contact Pastor Patricia at patricia@gracedowntown.net. In order to keep the prayer list current, names will be kept on the list for 4 weeks and then removed, unless you instruct us otherwise.

Margaret Adams	Jessica Martin
Family of Norma Adams	Lt. Col. Gene McCarley & wife
Shelley Atwell	Sherry
Brice Borowicz	Family of Frank O'Brien
Barbara Brown	Larry Phipps
Lynn Burney	Charlie Reaps' granddaughter
Amy Burrous	Kyna Rose & Family
Family of Chris Chase	Gary Sebastian
Debbie Cole	John Sexton
Jonathan Finch	Paul & Chris Sipson
George Gardner	Cozette Southerland
Family of Wayne Gibson	Don & Kathy Spitzner
Janice Gurganus	Lydia Twamley
Bob Henard	Elaine Vonhatten
Beth Humphrey	Beverly Walker
Lillian Kinney	Madison Williams
Cathy Liner	

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

Maj. Jeffery Bernard, USA
Capt. Tim Collins, USMC
Col. John Delaney, USA
E5 William Chase Dubel, USA
LCDR Colleen Fagan, USN Reserve
WO3 Jonathan Finch, USA Reserve
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC
Capt. Jason T. Hill, USAF
SFC Letty Long, USA
SFC Woodrow Long, USA
Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
LCDR Nicholas Madren, USN
SSg. Emily Olinger, USAF
Pvt. Steven Patterson
Maj. Brian Potts, USMC
LCDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
Lt. Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC

Luminaries

One of the wonderful Grace traditions is the use of luminaries to line the walkways to the church for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.

Today and December 16, there will be special envelopes in the morning worship bulletin for donations to this mission project. Please use these to name the person or persons you wish to honor or memorialize on Christmas Eve. A list of all the names will be included in the bulletins that evening.



A donation of \$5 or more per name is suggested. This project is being led by the Grace Youth. The funds raised will be used by the Youth Ministry.

The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, December 18.

Please check the appropriate box or boxes and place in the offering plate.

- Would like to join Grace United Methodist Church.**
 - Need Grace UMC name tag(s).**
 - Change of address, phone number, or email.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

**Cinderella's Closet Fundraiser
at
Your Pie**

Come out for lunch after church on **TODAY**, 12-3 pm at Your Pie, 4403 Oleander Dr., Suite G.

Your Pie will donate 20% of proceeds from each meal sold at that time to Cinderella's Closet. These funds will be put towards the purchase of dresses and shoes in much needed sizes for use during our spring prom shopping events.

During this event we will also raffle off a couples' ticket to Cinderella's Closet Throwback Prom fundraiser in February.

So come out, bring your friends, and eat pizza for a good cause!

Worship Service Help Needed

Grace UMC needs your help in the following areas:

5 pm and 7 pm Christmas Eve Outside Guides: we need volunteers who will guide first-time visitors to the Welcome Center entrances. Contact Linda Pyle at (910) 798-1712.

For 2019:

Greeters - Make our visitors and members feel welcome as they enter our 11 am worship service. To volunteer or for more information, contact Vicki Stanfield-Switzer at (828) 577-3321.

Liturgists - Lead the first portion of the Grace worship experience at 8:30 or 11:00 am or both, To volunteer or for more information, contact Rick Zigler at (910) 341-5726.

2019 Altar Flower Chart

The 2019 sign-up chart for altar flowers is in the Welcome Center. You may sign up for one or both sides for any available Sunday.

The cost is \$45 per side. Checks should be made payable to Grace UMC, with "altar flowers" written on the memo line, and may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the office. Marion Little will contact you about the dedication wording for the bulletin the week prior to your selected date.



November Family Promise Thank You!

Our Family Promise/WIHN families have come and gone, but they felt very welcomed by our volunteers as they ate, slept and were at home at Grace! Thanks to the following Grace folks who donated their time and talents:

Overnight hosts: Judy and Darrell Davies, Tom Jones, Jan Sutton, Jane Spicer

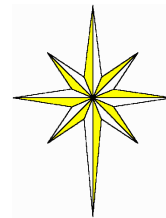
Dinner hosts: Liz Thigpen and Margaret Batchelor, Kelley and the Grace Youth, Susan and Frank Michaels, Dawn and Matt Hale

Ambassadors: Marilee Tremlett, Alan and Bettye Broadwater, Leigh Mabee, Gary Atwell, Jeanne and Donald Gore. Plus, those who offered but were not needed: Jane and Larry Phipps, Valoree Shinn and Stephanie Christy, Vicki and Steve Stanfield-Switzer.

Transportation: Emily and Bill Booth, Matt Hale

Many thanks to everybody who helped! Our 2019 weeks of hosting will be February 17-24, April 28-May 12, August 11-18 and December 1-8. If you want to volunteer during any of these times, please let Jane Spicer know at 622-1211 or jdspicer@ec.rr.com. Training and free smiles provided!

*Christmas Candlelight Services
Monday, December 24, 2018
5 pm & 7 pm*



*Come!
Let the light of Jesus' birth shine
into your heart anew.*

Childcare will be available at both services for children age 3 and under.

Help Needed on Dec. 23 & 24

In order to have enough seating for the Christmas Eve services, additional chairs will need to be moved into the activity building.

On Sunday, December 23, following the 11 am worship service, we need people to move about 40 chairs from the Bible Class room to the gym. Then after the 7 pm service on December 24, we need help moving them back to the classroom.

Many hands will make light work!

Family Council After-the-Storm Angel Tree

The Disaster Relief Team has been working in neighborhoods that have faced lots of damage or total loss since the storm. In these neighborhoods, we have met amazing and resilient families who are struggling to put their lives back together. We have chosen some of these families for a very special Angel Tree.

This Angel Tree contains the names of children, teens, moms, dads, and grandparents. Instead of just getting toys for kids, we want to make life a little easier for family members this winter.

How you can participate:

Each person we are helping is listed on a Facebook event page and on a list on the bulletin board in the Children's area. You can also see Kelley for a list on Sunday mornings.

The individuals are listed with a name and number, along with clothing sizes or any specific request they may have (pans, sheets, coats, etc.). Simply pick a name or names on the list, then shop and **bring any gifts to the Children's Hall Christmas tree by Wednesday, December 12, at 5 pm.** Please clearly mark your gifts with the person's name and number. You may bring them in Christmas gift bags, unwrapped boxes or in grocery bags. Just make sure they are tagged.

On December 12, from 5-7 pm, the Family Council will be wrapping all the presents to take to the families. You are welcome to join us for a wrapping party!

2019 Stewardship Campaign Coming in February!

This will be a new and more intentional program than Grace has had in recent years. Watch the *Grace Notes* in the coming weeks for exciting details of this new campaign!

New Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Study the book of James with us this fall. We'll meet for five sessions starting Wednesday, January 20, 2019 at 6:00 pm. Childcare will be provided by the Children's Ministry that will be going on during that time. Leader: Tal Madison. Among the things we'll explore are:

- Who do scholars say wrote the book of James? When was it written, and why?
- What do we make of James' stronger emphasis on good works than we find in the writings of Paul?
- How does James help direct our following Jesus today?

Sign-up will start soon.

Poinsettias

Special envelopes for donations to the Poinsettia Mission Project are still available in the Welcome Center. Please use these envelopes to name a person or persons you wish to honor or memorialize on December 23, when the altar will be decorated with beautiful poinsettias. A list of all the names will be included in the bulletin that morning.



A donation of \$5 or more per name is suggested. Funds raised will be given to the disaster relief mission work of Grace UMC.

After the Christmas Eve services, the poinsettias will be given to the members of the Grace Chancel Choir in appreciation for their ministry to Grace.

Financial Peace University Coming in 2019

Financial Peace University will help you "take control of your money, plan for your future and transform your life". Financial stress is one of the leading challenges to the American home. This nine week DVD based course will help you get your financial house in order. Dave Ramsey is the teacher on the videos.

Russell Ipock will facilitate the classes on Sunday afternoons at Grace. The class will begin on Sunday, February 10, in the afternoon. The cost is \$110, which covers up to two people from a household to take course.

2019 Operating Budget Approved

At Grace's Annual Charge Conference on November 27, the Administrative Council approved the 2019 Operating Budget submitted by the Finance Committee. The budget totals \$746,181; an increase of only \$306 over the 2018 budget.

Our thanks to the various committees and ministry teams, the Administrative Council, the church staff, and Finance Committee for the ways they bring the ministries of Grace forward, while being mindful of costs at the same time.

Thank You

Our thanks to the following people for their service on The Way Forward Communications Team at Grace. This team has kept the congregation aware of the events leading up to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, February 24-27, 2019.

Sandy Smith	John Glasgow
David Miller	Ed Hickmon
Hope Inman	Sam Spicer
Patricia DiGiuseppe	Pat Goodman
Mac Cunningham	Tal Madison
Cindy Henry	

Ushers Needed for Sunday Mornings

Several members of the ushering teams have lost members over the past months. Therefore, new volunteers are needed to fill these team for both the 8:30 and 11:00 am worship services. The ushers are a vital part of the worship services at Grace.

If you would like to serve in this ministry, please contact Bob High at: rshch@gmail.com. Thank you!

Tablecloths Missing

While straightening the UMW closet in the gym, it was discovered that 8 of Grace's 120" round, white tablecloths are missing. If you have borrowed one or more of these tablecloths, please return them to the closet as soon as possible. Cinderella's Closet is planning to use the tablecloths at an upcoming event.

Thank you!

Sunday Fellowship Time

Grace's Nurture Committee does a wonderful job preparing coffee, juice, and goodies for the congregation every Sunday.

The Nurture Committee has asked for volunteers to help them in taking turns setting up and taking down Fellowship Time. They will train you on what to do.

If you are willing to serve in this way, please contact Gail Braun (410-255-3481) or Rosie Coronel (678-739-6003).

Lay Leadership for 2019

If you agreed to serve on a committee when called, congratulations! The Lay Leadership Roster for 2019 has been approved. You will begin serving on January 1, 2019. We thank you for your willingness to serve Grace Church and our Lord in this way.

A complete list of the Lay Leadership for 2019 will be available soon.

Do you have any questions regarding the General Conference of the Methodist Church to be held in February 2019 that will address the Way Forward? Feel free to call the Grace Church office to set up a time to talk with Tal.

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

Monday, December 24, 5 pm & 7 pm - **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services**

Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 12 noon - **Graceful Seniors Luncheon and Program**

Saturday, February 9, 2019 - **Cinderella's Closet Throwback Prom**, 7-11 pm at the Brooklyn Arts Center

Wednesday, March 6 - **Ash Wednesday**

Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 pm - **Awakening Service**, guest preacher will be Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, Bishop of the NC Conference of UMC

Sunday, April 21 - **Easter**

Sunday, June 23—Thursday, June 27 - **2019 Vacation Bible School**