

Grace Notes

January 30, 2022

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, January 30

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:30 am Pastor Kelley Ahlers Reception
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service

Monday, January 31

- 1:00 pm Welcoming Friends, Bible SS room
- 7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 1

- 9:00 am Organist in Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Rotary Club in gym
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp

Wednesday, February 2

- 11:15 am Yoga class
- 4:00 pm Organist in Sanctuary
- 6:15 pm Grace Ringers
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 3

- 10:30 am UMW luncheon
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:30 pm Basketball

Friday, February 4

- 9:00 am Organist in Sanctuary

Saturday, February 5

- 9:00 am Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, February 6

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service

THANK YOU FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dear Grace congregation,

Hopefully you had a nice Christmas and New Year's holiday. Just a quick word of thanks to everyone for helping Grace Church end 2021 in much better financial condition than we experienced back in October. Just prior to Thanksgiving, I asked you for help with more offerings to ensure that our Church would end the year in good financial standing. During the holidays, many of you gave more. Grace Church finances are now in better shape as we kick off the new year. Thank you!

Throughout this winter, please continue to give gifts of offerings, time, service, and prayers to Grace Church to ensure that Grace stays fully operational with finances in good standing. For the latest budget status, please reference the finance data in both the bulletin and here in Grace Notes weekly. Additionally, copies of the Grace budget for 2022 will be available in the visitor center for any congregation member who wants one.

Again, THANK YOU for your support of Grace Church. Everything Grace Church is able to do, is because of you!!

Best Regards and Happy New Year!

Mike Mabee
Grace Finance

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 1/23/2022

In-person Worship Service: 8:00 am - 13
In-person Worship Service: 11:00 am - 43
Online Worship Service: 53

Operating Funds Given	1/19-1/26	\$ 4,675
Building Preservation Fund	1/19-1/26	\$ 535

December

Operating Funds Given YTD	\$ 659,715.13
Operating Expenses YTD	\$ 697,141.69
Balance	\$ (37,426.56)
2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879	

December

Building Preservation Fund	
Received 2021 YTD	\$ 50,762.28
Building Preservation Fund	
Spent 2021 YTD	\$ 48,225.95

Disaster Recovery (Boiler)

Insurance Receipts	\$ 67,859
Expenses to date	\$ 80,963

Apportionments are paid through December

On-line Sunday Worship Services Continue

The service will be available Sunday starting at **4:00 pm**

This is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAK2Z36cUQ1JzE6Ye7TzcGq>

THE FOURTH CROSS BUS TRIP PLANNED

Grace is planning a bus trip to the production, "The Fourth Cross", at the Narrowway Theater in Fort Mill, SC. The bus will accommodate 15 passengers and the trip is first come-first seated. In addition to the dinner-theater, we plan a visit to the Billy Graham Library, before returning to Grace.



The trip would leave Grace on Friday, March 18, 2022 around noon. We would go to the Holiday Inn Express in Charlotte to check in and then drive a few miles to the Narrowway Theater for the dinner-show at 5:00 pm. After the show we will return to the hotel.

On Saturday, March 19, we will have breakfast at the hotel (included) before driving a few miles to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte (admission is always free but they do accept donations). We will spend the morning at the library, have lunch, and then return to Grace, arriving around 5:00 pm.

The costs include \$40 per ticket for the theater, hotel room is \$113.06 double occupancy; and a donation to cover the gas for the bus. Dinner on Friday and breakfast on Saturday are included.

To make this trip work, we need a very quick response as tickets at the theater are filling fast! We still have available seating for both left and right center. Hotel rooms must also be confirmed fairly quickly.

If you would like to join this venture, please send an email directly to Marvin Evans, at gumctrustees1@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Should more than 15 people want to join this trip, the first 15 will be on the bus and we can car-pool the remainder, or plan for a second trip!

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Angie	Fred Merritt
Jim Ballard	Mary Neal
Bebe	NHRMC Nurses/Doctors/ Staff
Jay & April Bradford & Family	Susan Pasquale
Alan Broadwater	George Patterson
John Calandro	Ann Payne
Sherry Carter	Joan Pence
Rod Caulder	Joan Penny
Jackson Cobb	Rosiland
Christians in Haiti	Kathy and Barry Roberts
Mary Huppman	Mary Sloan
Laura	Tori Thornton and newborn son, Kaiser
Theresa Harrell	Bill Young and his sons
Laura Howard	
Billie Lyndon	

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers

LCpl. John Capwell, USMC	Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC	CDR Nicholas Madren, USN
Maj. Tim Collins, USMC	PFC Schuyler Marshall, USA
Col. John Delaney, USA	SSg. Emily Olinger, USAF
Ens. Elizabeth Downing, USN	Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA
E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN	Sgt. James Pritchett, USA
E6 William Chase Dubel, USA	CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF	Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN	Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC	AB Michael Sloan, USAF
Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF	Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
Cpl. Chase Krieg, USMC	Michael Tate, USA
SFC Letty Long, USA	E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC
SFC Woodrow Long, USA	



If you have a prayer request, please contact Pastor Patricia at patricia@gracedowntown.net or 910-470-6310

UMW MONTHLY MEETING WITH PASTOR KELLEY AND OTHER NEWS

Our speaker for this will be Kelley Ahlers who will be speaking to us on "New Beginnings", i.e., her new beginnings as she goes about forming a new church, her goals and direction. We'll all want to congratulate Kelley on her new appointment at this meeting and send her on her way with lots of encouragement and love from Grace UMW. Refreshments will be provided by Joanne Hamilton, Vicki Stanfield Switzer and Linda Snider.

As well, we had a very successful Sewing Day on Monday, January, 17. The five ladies who attended prepared twenty-two kits for dresses of warmer materials. These will be sent to young girls in the Methodist Children's Home Program. If you have one or more dresses ready, please bring to the Welcome Center on or by February 3 to be placed in the collection bin. These warmer fabric dresses need to be sent as soon as possible to help out during this winter season.

SUPER SOUPER SUNDAY IS BACK

Super Souper Sunday - February 13 — From 9:30 am until after the 11:00 am service, our UMW Ladies will be selling their delicious soups. Various recipes; all \$10.00 for a quart plus four pieces of cornbread or four cornbread muffins. Your dinner is ready as you may be preparing to watch the Super Bowl later that evening! Funds raised from this sale go to help further the UMW Missions throughout the year. We have missed doing this for you for the past two years and will be excited to be back in the Welcome Center on February 13.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Over the last year or so with the pandemic and folks being home a lot, your email or contact information may have changed. If this is the case and you are currently not getting the Friday Grace Notes email each week, please email Ginny, at Ginny@Gracedowntown.net so she can check or update your records. We are finding that phone numbers and mailing addresses have also changed. All updates are much appreciated. Thank you very much!

NEW CAREGIVER GROUP FORMING

Are you a caregiver for a spouse, parent or other family member? Although it is certainly rewarding at times, caregiving can be challenging, frustrating, and isolating. Would you like the opportunity to meet with other caregivers to share feelings in a safe environment, to swap tips and ideas, and to encourage and pray for each other? This new group will have its initial meeting on Monday, February 7 at 1:30 pm at the church. It will be facilitated by Stephen Ministries Leader, Brena Conley. Questions? Call Brena at (301-802-5408) or email: brenagibson@gmail.com. We are here for you!

RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR DEBBIE ASHE

Debbie has been a gift to Grace Church for twenty-nine years. She has dropped whatever she was doing to help us and has treated us with kindness and respect throughout those years.

We will honor her with a reception Sunday, February 13th. Please continue to place your cards with cash, check or gift cards in her basket on Sundays or bring or mail them to the church.

We delayed the reception because we want Grace well and healthy to give her a wonderful send-off on the 13th after the eleven o'clock service.

Grace Nurture Committee

THE CHOSEN SERIES CONTINUES

Pat Goodman with UMW will continue showing *The Chosen* - Season One on the following weeks. This is a highly acclaimed movie depicting the life of Jesus.

Movie/Meeting Dates:

February 10, 17
9:30-11:30 am in the Bible Study Room
Come join the UMW Morning Movie.
OPEN TO ALL!

February 3 is UMW monthly meeting only

FAREWELL FOR REV. KELLEY AHLERS TODAY

Today, Sunday (Jan. 30) Grace will say farewell to Rev. Kelley Ahlers. We thank her for over 5 yrs. of ministry among us. She is accepting an offer to start a new United Methodist congregation in Wilmington. There will be a farewell reception for her during Sunday School (9:30-10:30 am) in the Bullock Activity Center (gym). Gifts of cash, gift cards, or checks can be placed for her in the basket available in the Welcome Center. The basket will be presented to her at 10:20am in the gym.

On this special day, Kelley will preach at both services (8:30am and 11am).

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD NEWS

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard continues to be open on Wednesdays and Fridays, 12:00 - 3:00, providing groceries to our neighbors in need. Please consider volunteering. Food was given to 120 households January 15, 165 households January 19 and 50 households on icy cold January 22. On Wednesday, January 26, they served their highest total yet, another 185 households.

Go to www.motherhubbardsnc.org. Click on Volunteers at the top. You will see a description of all the jobs needed each time they're open. Scroll to the bottom of the page and complete the form to volunteer.

You may choose how often you want to volunteer. Please feel free to text or call Donna Dawkins (Duckie) 919-741-3037 to leave a message or ask questions.

Time to replenish our stock! See the list below of present needs if you would like to donate. They can be dropped off at the Welcome Center or at MHC on Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am

**Bags: cloth, paper and/or clean plastic
Juice Cereal Healthy Soups
Canned Fruits Canned Meats**

WEBSITE UPDATES

The Grace UMC website is currently being updated. **Do you have any updates for the following topics?**

- Sunday School Classes of all ages
- Women's Groups
- Men's Groups
- Mission Programing
- Outreach

If so, please contact Mary Tyndall at: mary@gracedowntown.net or mdjay2001@yahoo.com. Check out our website at www.gracedowntown.church to review the current and needed information.

GAME DAY, FEBRUARY 9

We had such a good time at our first Game Day, we are planning another! Our next game day will be February 9 from 1-3 (ish) in the Grace gym and we will continue each month on the 2nd Wednesday. Light snacks will be available. Please call the church office to sign up to play or you can call:

Karen Evans 757.871.3763 or
Sally Barnes 631.258.3182"

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK THIS WEEK!

Grace is the "host" church for Family Promise this week, which means that we are supplying dinner for homeless families in the program. This can be a hot meal delivered to the site, ordering a meal to be delivered, or gift cards so the family can buy and cook food.

Delivered meals are taken to the day house where they are living during COVID. The address is Building 3511 Frog Pond Place, Wilmington.

Please contact me if you would like to help these homeless families by providing a meal. They are working, learning and saving their money as they stay in the program so they can get a new start in a new home! Our contribution is their dinner! If you would like to do more, the wish list for the program is listed below. If you want to help or have questions, please call, text or email me. And thanks in advance!

Jane Spicer
Cell: 910 622-1211



Family Promise Wish List

If you would like to donate these, please leave items labelled in the Welcome Center or deliver them to the program at the Harrelson Center (call 769-4730 to arrange).

body wash
hand soap
paper towels,
toilet paper
disinfectant wipes,
gas gift cards,
gently used lamps,
brooms with dust pans,
shower curtain liners,
bathroom trash cans,
kitchen trash cans

MASKS EXPECTED AT YOUTH EVENTS

The Administrative Council of Grace UMC has voted to go back to masks expected at all events at Grace for those in grades K-12. This expectation went into effect Sun., Jan. 16. This is in response to the rapid rise of the Omicron variant and is in keeping with the recent decision by New Hanover Schools to require masks of all students in all grades. This proposal was made to the Ad Council by Grace's Covid19 Task Force.

This mask expectation at Grace will lift as soon as New Hanover County Schools lifts their mask requirement. It is our hope that the current surge will pass quickly. The Covid19 Task Force is reviewing the status of the virus and making recommendations to Grace's Admin. Council monthly. We are excited about the presence of children and youth taking part in the life of Grace UMC. We encourage all to wear masks and help everyone stay healthy. The full policy is available in the Welcome Center.

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

- 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: _____