

Grace Notes

February 16, 2020

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, February 16

- 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
- 5:00 pm Family Worship BLAST
- 5:15 pm Mustard Seed Nursery Time (ages 2-3)
Powerful Play (PreK-grade 2)
Sonshine Singers (grades 3-5)
Compassion Bible Study, Grace 3:16 (grades 10-12)
Compassion Bible Study, (grades 6-9)
- 5:45 pm Compassion Bible Study (age 3-grade 5)
Solid Rock Singers (grades 6-9)
Youth Hot Topics (grades 10-12)

Monday, February 17

- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 7:00 pm Board of Trustees
- 7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 18

- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study - I John
- 10:00 am Graceful Seniors
- 10:00 am Le Leche League
- 6:30 pm Administrative Council

Wednesday, February 19

- 9:30 am UMW Leadership Team
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 11:30 am Gentle Yoga Class
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:15 pm Grace Ringers
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 20

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 12:00 pm Welcome Table
- 6:00 pm Adult Bible Study - I John

Saturday, February 22

- 9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 23

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:30 am Fellowship Time
- 9:30 am Stewardship Meal
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:00 am Stewardship Meal
- 5:00 pm Family Worship BLAST
- 5:15 pm Mustard Seed Nursery Time (ages 2-3)
Powerful Play (PreK-grade 2)
Sonshine Singers (grades 3-5)
Compassion Bible Study, Grace 3:16 (grades 10-12)
Compassion Bible Study, (grades 6-9)
- 5:45 pm Compassion Bible Study (age 3-grade 5)
Solid Rock Singers (grades 6-9)
Youth Hot Topics (grades 10-12)

Graceful Seniors for February

Tuesday, February 18, 10:00 am
Bullock Activity Center

The speaker will be Susan Heaton, CEO of Canines for Service. The mission of this organization is to empower people with disabilities to achieve greater independence and enhanced quality of life through the services of specially trained assistance dogs. These dogs assist our Veterans.

Opportunities for volunteering will be covered and one of the assistance dogs will be present.

Please join us to learn about these amazing animals.



Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Maria Agrillo	Chuck McCarthy
Jean Ballard	Joann McCloskey
Bob Bauman	Raelyne Michel
Julie Best	Family of Spc. Antonio Moore
Alan Biddle	Mike O'Brien
Brice Borowicz	Steve Pacello
Betty Brown	Jim Pasquarette
Bruce Celeto	Muriel Pearson
George Collins	Larry Phipps
Ruth Conner	Noah Roberts
Doug Cox	Barbara Robertson
Zach DeForge	Ryan's Family
Patricia DiGiuseppe	Fern Schussler
Gail Gibbs	Priscilla Shirer
Mary Ginocchio	Jonathan Sloan
Catherine Leigh Gold	Cozette Southerland
Joan Greene	Kathy Spitzner
Family & Friends of Jennifer Harter	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Ron Hickmon	Roger Swilley
Dick Hull	Donna Tripp
Natalie Humphrey	Pete Williams
Janice	Laura Witherington
Charlie Leighton	Diane Woodbury
Will Lindsey	Rich Van Gorder
Family of George Lyndon	Will Vereen
Jessica Martin	Caroline Vincent

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

Maj. Jeffery Bernard, USA
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC
Maj. Tim Collins, USMC
Col. John Delaney, USA
E2 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN
E5 William Chase Dubel, USA
WO3 Jonathan Finch, USA Reserve
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC
Capt. Jason T. Hill, USAF
Cpl. Chase Krieg, USMC
SFC Letty Long, USA
SFC Woodrow Long, USA
Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
CDR Nicholas Madren, USN
PFC Schuyler Marshall, USA
SSg. Emily Olinger, USAF
Pvt. Steven Patterson
LCDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
Lt. Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
AB Michael Sloan, USAF
Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
Michael Tate, USA
E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

Starting December 30, while Pastor Patricia is on medical leave, please direct prayer requests to Sandy Smith at: sandysmithgrace@gmail.com 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.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Cinderella's Closet at the Masquerade Ball this past Saturday. We had a fabulous time and raised about \$7,000 to support this outreach ministry.

Cinderella's Closet Team



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: _____

New Members Received Today

Grace is blessed to receive the following new members today at the 11:00 am worship service.

Gene & Pat Patton moved to the area last September after 32 years in Clayton, North Carolina. They found their way to Grace through their daughter, who worships with us at times. Gene and Pat have two daughters and 4 grandsons. They enjoy walking, reading and gardening, and Gene likes woodworking.

Dick & Linda Raim relocated from Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina to be near their son and first grandchild. Dick enjoys fishing, woodworking, and watching sports on TV. Linda likes reading, watching TV, keeping up with her friends and has already joined a Bible Study and UMW.

Jerry & Judy Smith made their way to Grace when Judy attended the women's Bible study in November with a friend. The warm welcome they received convinced the couple that Grace would be their church home. Jerry and Judy came to Wilmington from Kernersville, North Carolina. They enjoy taking care of their grandchildren, traveling in their RV and boating.

Lenten Awakening Event 2020

Saturday, March 14, 9:00 am
Bullock Activity Center

A Conversation with Dusty Casteen

The Awakening Event will be different this year. Dusty Casteen, a member of Anchor UMC and the leader of their Switching Gears ministry, has had a life of twists and turns.

Dusty's life has included a period of drug addiction and time in prison. Along the way, he was captured by the grace of Jesus Christ. It turned his life around.

You are invited to come hear his story of God's *Amazing Grace*. How he went from being so far down, to being named by the *Star News* as one of the 40 People Under 40 to watch in Wilmington.

A light breakfast will be served (donations accepted). Please sign-up in the Welcome Center so we'll know how much to prepare and who might need childcare.

New Consecration Program

February will be Stewardship Emphasis Month for Grace's 2020 Operating Budget, culminating in **New Consecration Sunday on February 23**. On this day, you will be invited to turn in your pledge for 2020.

You will be given your Estimate Of Giving Card during worship on that day. The cards ask that we share our intended giving calculated weekly. However, you are free to indicate on the card if you prefer to give monthly, quarterly, etc. Please be prepared to indicate this clearly on the card.

There will be a special fellowship meal after each worship service. You don't have to bring anything. Just come and enjoy fellowship with your Grace Family.

Our guest preacher for that day will be Rev Jim Bell. Jim is the Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Rocky Mount.

Grace's Giving Patterns

Below are the numbers that were presented verbally during the worship services on February 9. These numbers reflect the giving pattern of Grace households over the past year.

These numbers reflect what households gave on a weekly basis, not monthly.

Weekly giving	No. of Households
\$0	62
\$0.01 to 9.99	93
\$10 to 19.99	29
\$20 to 29.99	34
\$30 to 39.99	20
\$40 to 49.99	21
\$50 to 74.99	31
\$75 to 99.99	21
\$100 to 149.99	22
\$150 to 199.99	4
\$200 an up	9

Cinderella's Closet Prom Shopping Event Dates **Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28**



Cinderella's Closet will host their fourth annual prom shopping event for high school girls in New Hanover county on Friday, March 27, 3-9pm and Saturday, March 28, 9-5pm. As you may notice, this is a change from the two Saturday events of previous years. Our hope is that by hosting the event on one full weekend, it will allow for more girls and volunteers to participate that aren't able to make it on Saturdays.

We are looking for women over the age of 18 to help at the events. Volunteers are needed for Fairy Godmothers, greeters, seamstresses (for very minor alterations!), and other helpers to make this event a success.

Attention Men! Your help is needed, too, for set up and clean up.

If you would like to volunteer and are not already on our mailing list as a volunteer, please contact Hope Inman at hopedwalters@hotmail.com.

This event is not exclusive to Grace members, so if you know of anyone in the Wilmington community that would like to volunteer, please give them our information!



Information Sessions Regarding:

World General Conference - May, 2020

There is a lot of misinformation floating around the media and elsewhere regarding the process ahead for the United Methodist Church. Pastor Tal will be holding 4 sessions to offer solid information about this subject. You are invited to come to the one that best suits your schedule.

- All sessions will be held in the Bible Class Room.
- Please use the **sign-up sheets** on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center. This will help us plan for childcare and also make sure there is adequate seating available.
- Parking for the daytime sessions is available in the church parking lot, the grassy lot, and 2-hour timed parking along 4th Street.
- It would be helpful for the evening sessions if those of you who are able would park in the bank parking lot or along 4th Street. This will keep our parking lot spaces available for those with walking difficulties .

The dates/times are as follows:

Monday, February 24, 6:30 pm (childcare provided)
Tuesday, February 25, 10:00 am
Monday, March 2, 6:30 pm (childcare provided)
Tuesday, March 3, 1:15 pm

These are the parameters for all sessions.

- The goal will be to offer sound information regarding the process ahead and possible outcomes.
- Please refrain from copying information from the internet or drafting positions papers to hand out. That will only serve to divide.
- There will be no speeches putting forward one position or another. Again, that will only divide.
- At Grace, we will stay focused on one goal: pointing people to the cross of Jesus. To accomplish this, we will continue to welcome all who come in our doors.

Family Promise/Interfaith

In Tal's most recent sermon, he spoke about really living by giving. We would like to offer you an opportunity to really live by helping host our WIHN/Family Promise families! We will have 3 families come to us February 23 through March 1: 2 single mothers and one couple, with a total of 5 children, ages 1-9. They will eat dinner, spend their evening and sleep at Grace. During the day, the families go out to school and work or to job hunt. On the weekends, they have the option of staying at the church all day and night. Rest assured that you will get far more out of helping these families than what you put into it!

We need help in the following areas:

Dinner providers and hosts (dinner served at 6pm) on Wed., Feb 26; Fri., Feb. 28 and Sat., Feb. 29.

Overnight hosts (7:45pm-6am and potentially until 7am if you drive the van) on Sun., Feb. 23; Fri., Feb. 28, and Sat., Feb. 29.

Ambassadors (5-8pm) To greet guests and volunteers and let them in and out of the building.

Needed on Tues. Feb. 25 and Wed., Feb. 26

Day Hosts, job same as ambassador but on Saturday, Feb 29. Needed from 11am-2pm and from 2-5pm

To volunteer or to find out more about these jobs, please call, text or email Jane Spicer at 910 622-1211 or jdspicer@ec.rr.com Thank you!

From the Grace Treasurer

Thank you for all your gifts to Grace UMC. We try very hard to make sure that your gifts are promptly and properly credited to the account you designate. Accordingly, here are some requests from the counters, who count and deposit the weekly offerings. We ask that you please follow these guidelines in order to ensure that your gifts are credited properly.

- Make out a separate check for each gift (operating budget, \$20 Fellowship, altar flowers, etc.). Grace uses an automated scanner to process the checks. Checks with combined amounts have to be processed manually; which increases the likelihood of errors.
- Indicate **legibly** where the money is to go. Checks received without a clear designation request automatically (per church policy) go to the general, operating budget.
- Use black or blue ink. The scanner does not read pastel colors.
- **Please write legibly.**
- If you are contributing via checks submitted on your behalf by a bank, brokerage, or other financial institution, be sure they indicate on the check where it is to be credited; i.e. budget, \$20 Fellowship, etc.
- Do not submit a second party check. All checks must be made payable to Grace UMC.
- When submitting cash, you must **legibly** write on the envelope your name and where the donation is to go.
- If the contribution is a memorial or an honorarium, please indicate if you have a specific designation for your gift, i.e. Music Dept., Children's Ministry, Nurture, etc. Also include who we should acknowledge and thank for the gift and their address. The more information we have the better.
- Parents—we applaud your efforts in developing good giving habits in your children. When they submit an envelope with money, please clearly indicate your name(s) so that proper credit can be given.

Again, we thank you for your gifts and offerings. If you have a question, feel free to contact Debbie Ashe in the office or me, Jim Ballard.

Jim Ballard, Treasurer

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 26, 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. This is the time in the church year that we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

There will be a traditional worship service with the imposition of ashes on the forehead in the form of a cross, an old practice in the Christian Church. The words and music in the service speak to a cleansing and renewal of spirit during the 40 days of Lent.

Childcare will be available for children 3 and under.

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper!

Bring your family, friends and anyone who loves syrup for Grace's Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper, **Wednesday, February 26.**

Supper will start at 5:30 pm and pancakes will be served until 6:30 pm.

Recommended donations are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children, and under age 3 eat for free. All monies raised will go toward the Youth Costa Rica Mission Trip this July and provide building materials for the orphanage where we will serve. As we go into the season of Lent, join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner!

Empty Bowls Returns on March 20, 2020!

11 am – 1:30 pm

First Baptist Church Activities Center
1939 Independence Blvd, Wilmington, NC
(Overflow parking and shuttle will be available in the Independence Mall parking lot.)

This bi-annual event will celebrate 10 events in 20 years in 2020~can you believe it!? We hope you'll join us for this wonderful day to support the work of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and Good Shepherd Center. Tickets will be \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Tickets on sale now in the Grace Office or visit EmptyBowlsILM.org

Sunday, March 1, 3:00 pm

Grace: Dementia Friendly Worship

This special worship service will include many, old familiar hymns, a short message, and familiar Scripture readings. The purpose of this service is to minister to those with Alzheimer and other forms of dementia, their caregivers and families. Everyone is invited to participate.

Please invite friends and family that you think would enjoy this service. Notices are being sent to the District Office and other churches in the area.

Have you ever wanted to be a "roadie"?

Grace's Handbell Choir has an opportunity for you!

You are invited to join the new Handbell Equipment Roadie Team. The team is needed once/month, September-May, to move, set up, and strike handbell equipment. This generally falls around the last Sunday of the month. Team training will be scheduled and conducted by the director of Grace Ringers, Jerry Cribbs.

Please ponder serving in this way and becoming part of the music ministry at Grace. For more information or to volunteer your services, please contact Jerry as soon as possible via email (jerry@gracedowntown.net) or call/text 910-233-2423.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Envelopes for Costa Rica

Grace's Mission Team to Costa Rica is starting their fund raising *Envelopes for Costa Rica* campaign this Sunday. Stop by the Welcome Center where you will find a table of envelopes with monetary amounts printed on them ranging from \$1-\$300. These donations will help with travel expenses, but most of the money is for the materials that will be used to build extra rooms and repair parts of our Methodist Orphanage in San Isidro (Grace's team will provide the free labor).

To support this trip, simply choose one of the envelopes and place the amount requested, or more, in the envelope and write your name or group's name on the front. Then place the envelope in the offering plate or in the box on the table.

Inside each envelope you will find a thank you note from one of our missionaries that has pictures on it of the children they will be serving. You are asked to pray for that team member.

Individuals, families, Sunday school classes and other groups may choose an envelope to collect together. Our hope is to have each envelope filled by the end of March.

Please take the time to prayerfully consider what you can give. If you would like a receipt, please write that on the back of the envelope. Thank you for your support and prayers as the Mission Team prepares for this July trip.

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

Sunday, February 23-Sunday, March 1 - ***Host Interfaith/Family Promise***

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 pm - ***Ash Wednesday Worship Service***

Friday, March 20, 11 am-1:30 p, - ***Empty Bowls 2020*** - See article for details.

Friday, March 27 & Saturday, March 28 - ***Cinderella's Closet Prom Dress Shopping Event***

Sunday, April 5, 8:30 & 11:00 am - ***Palm Sunday Worship Services***

Friday, April 10, 7:00 pm - ***Good Friday Worship Service***

Sunday, April 12, 8:30 & 11:00 am - ***Easter Sunday Worship Services***

Sunday, June 21—Thursday, June 25 - ***Vacation Bible School 2020***

July 8-14, 2020 - ***San Isidro, Costa Rica Mission Trip*** - Watch coming *Grace Notes* for more details

Saturday, September 12, 8:30 am—2:45 pm - ***Annual Chancel Choir Retreat***