

# Grace Notes

March 8, 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, March 8

##### Daylight Saving Time Starts

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 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**
- 5:00 pm Reducing Stress Adult Class
- 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, March 9

- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:30 pm Basketball
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm Agape Circle
- 7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

#### Tuesday, March 10

- 9:30 am KnitWerks@Panera/Independence
- 10:00 am Graceful Seniors
- 11:00 am Nurture Committee Meeting
- 6:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee
- 6:30 pm Basketball

#### Wednesday, March 11

- 11:30 am Gentle Yoga Class
- 4:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:15 pm Grace Ringers
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, March 12

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 12:00 pm Welcome Table

#### Saturday, March 14

- 9:00 am Lenten Awakening Event

#### Sunday, March 15

- 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**
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### **Reducing Stress Series**

Starting Today, 5-6:30 pm

The second part of the Reducing Stress series looks at how we serve. Over this 2-week study, we will learn practical tips on how our service to God can help change our stress levels.

The first evening we have a wonderful guest, Meg Stuart from Hope Recuperative Care. HRC is a home-like environment for those experiencing homelessness to recuperate from an illness, injury, surgery or chemotherapy after being discharged from the hospital. She will share how her service has changed her and how she helps others in stressful situations.

### Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Jean Ballard	Emily Mauldin
Bob Bauman	Joann McCloskey
Julie Best	Peter Moreale
Alan Biddle	Steve Pacello
Brice Borowicz	Evan Papaspyros
Ruth Bowers	Frank Pasquale
Jeanne Brothman	Jim Pasquarette
Betty Brown	Family of Muriel Pearson
Bruce Celete	Larry Phipps
George Collins	Sidney Potter
Ruth Conner	Alma Rivenbark
David Cooper	Noah Roberts
Mike Cupps	Barbara Robertson
Zach DeForge	Fern Schussler
Gail Gibbs	Jonathan Sloan
Mary Ginocchio	Cozette Southerland
Catherine Leigh Gold	Kathy Spitzner
Joan Greene	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Ron Hickmon	Roger Swilley
Dick Hull	Donna Tripp
Natalie Humphrey	Pete Williams
Janice	Laura Witherington
Kathleen	Rich Van Gorder
Margaret Lane	Caroline Vincent
Charlie Leighton	

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

If you have a prayer request, please contact Pastor Patricia at [patricia@gracedowntown.net](mailto: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.

### **Community Relations Committee**

The Community Relations Committee is looking for new members with experience in **graphics, press releases, and print advertising**. The committee meets once per month.

Contact Olivia Walsh, [olivia@gracedowntown.net](mailto:olivia@gracedowntown.net), if you interested in volunteering with this group.

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.**
  - Will attend the Soup Lunch on Sunday, March 22**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Graceful Seniors

Tuesday, March 10, 10:00 am

The speaker will be Reva Gornbein, who is a veteran of World War II. She has a Masters Degree and was trained in Cryptology. During the War she decoded German secret messages for the benefit of the Allies. She was stationed in Berlin and was given the task to travel to Munich to retrieve Hitler's former secretary who was a POW at the time.

This will be a fascinating insight into a world we know so little about. Bring a friend!

### You're Invited

The Nurture Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 10, 11:30 am, Bible Class Room. If you would like to be on a committee that is very active and vital to Grace church, we will welcome you with open arms!

If you have any questions, contact Carole Ellis, 910-540-3643.

### Gracelettes

Thursday, March 19, 6:00 pm

The group will meet at Grace and work for about an hour on getting Cinderella's Closet "shopping day ready." Afterwards we'll head downtown for dinner.

RSVP to Jessica either on Facebook or by text to 252-364-7583.

### Toot Your Horn!

The Missions Committee has a new interactive bulletin board. The purpose? We'd love to see all of Grace's great works posted in one place. So if you as an individual, or a group here at Grace, are working on a mission project, we want everyone to know.



Please use the notecards and sharpies provided to add your particular mission or missions to the board.

We praise God for the many giving, caring and compassionate people at work through Grace.

### Help Needed with Sound System!

Grace needs people to help run the sound board during the Sunday worship services and for services. This is a vitally important part of the church's ministry—if people can't hear what is going on, the impact of the service is lost on them.

If you are willing to help with this ministry, please contact Debbie Cole (head of sound) 910-233-0429, or Tal Madison, pastor.

### Soup's On Sunday

March 22, 12:00 noon

The Nurture Committee is sponsoring *Soup's On Sunday*. Various congregation members and groups are donating homemade soups and desserts. There will be salad and drinks provided by the Nurture Committee.

The Grace Solid Rock Singers and Edna Mory will be providing entertainment.

The whole congregation is encouraged to come after the service and enjoy great food and fellowship.

**Please use the tear-off above to make your reservation** or call the volunteer desk Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. The deadline to sign-up is March 18.

### 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.

### Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt Hugh Macrae Park - 3 pm - April 5, 2020

The Family Ministry Program is hosting an afternoon Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday at Hugh Macrae Park. This will be a fun event for Grace church and also a chance to meet others and share all that Grace does.

There will be an egg exchange center where all the eggs collected by the children can be exchanged for various prizes and candy. **For this event we need the following items:**

- Candy bars ( all sizes)**
- Small toys (like the ones found at the dollar store)**
- Various types of candy**
- Baked goods (cupcakes, cookies, etc)**
- Small bags of chips, cookies, and snacks**
- Small bottled water**

Please leave all items in the marked bin in the Welcome Center. Thank you for your help and save the date for a wonderful afternoon.



### New Consecration Campaign Update

As part of our New Con Campaign, estimate of giving cards were mailed to Grace participants from whom we had not heard. A number of cards have been mailed back in.

As of March 4, we have 147 pledges totaling \$523,722. This represents an increase of \$43,722 over where we were on New Consecration Sunday. This still leaves us some \$25,275 short of our total pledges last year, I'm sure some more pledges will be mailed in.

Thanks to all for your generosity and for your hard work on this.  
Tal Madison

### Beth Moore April Program

For those ladies who signed up to attend the April 24-25 Beth Moore Live Presentation, it is time to pay your \$65.00 fee. Please make your check payable to Grace UMC and put Beth Moore on the memo line. You may place it in the offering plate or bring it by the church office. **The deadline to pay the fee is Wednesday, April 1.**

If you did not preregister, it's not too late to get a ticket. Use the sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center.

If you have questions, contact:  
Linda Snider - snidersnc@gmail.com or  
Linda Russ - lindapruss@hotmail.com."

## Cape Fear Chorale

WITH ORCHESTRA  
Presents

Franz Joseph Haydn

Mass in D Minor

Te Deum in C

With special guests

E.A. Laney High School Choral Ensemble

Jerry Cribbs, Direction Libby Oldham, Accompanist

Sunday, April 19, 2020, 4 pm  
UNCW Kenan Auditorium

Free Admission Donations Accepted

[www.capefearchorale.org](http://www.capefearchorale.org)

### *Save the Date!*

## Gino's Café Returns!



Saturday, June 13, 2020  
6:00 pm  
Bullock Activity Center

### New Ministry Possible

Someone has kindly offered to purchase cameras for the sanctuary to record Grace's worship services. The idea is then to make them available for broadcast online. This can be a fantastic form of outreach, as well as a great service to our homebound members who can no longer attend worship services.

Before we purchase the equipment, we need manpower to do the following:

1. Remotely run the camera (turn on/off, zoom in/out, pan, etc. (We are promised it's not as hard as it sounds.)
2. Edit the recording to get it ready to broadcast online.

If you can help with any of the above, let Tal know.

### 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](http://EmptyBowlsILM.org)

### Migrant Worker Kits

It is time for the United Methodist Women to make and assemble the Migrant Worker Kits. This ministry, which is an important phase of our outreach, provides bags to North Carolina migrant workers. These drawstring bags are made from 1 yard of heavy fabric and contain personal toiletries for the workers. Many of these workers arrive with nothing, so these toiletries are certainly appreciated. All of the migrants are in this country legally. No illegals are allowed to participate in the migrant program.

Below you will find a list of items that are needed to put in the bags. There will be a container in the Welcome Center for you to place your items. There will be a list of items needed on the easel by the bin. We hope to have some bags made in the bin, so if you would like to fill a bag, please take one. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, we will be happy to do the shopping for you. If you have any questions, contact Dianna Florea at 398-8790.

**In addition**, we will be collecting buttoned, long-sleeved shirts this year. They don't have to be new, so it is a great time to clean out your closets.

Thank you in advance for your help and contributions to this worth mission.

- Single package toothbrushes with container
- Toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Soap and plastic soap container with lid
- New bath towel
- New washcloth
- Disposable razors
- Hand (body lotion)
- Shampoo
- Comb and hair brush
- Safety pins
- Band-aids (reg. Size strips)
- Metal nail file
- Deodorant

## Thank You Grace!

Grace members are known for their generosity, so it is no surprise that 30 different people helped out this past week as we hosted 4 Interfaith families with small children who found themselves without a place to live. Many thanks to the following wonderful folks:

- Delicious meals were prepared and hosted by Leigh and Mike Mabee, Carolee Doty, Liz Thigpen, and Margaret Batchelor.
- Smiling faces greeted the families as they came and left the building, dealing with any issues that arose. Our smiling Grace ambassadors were Jeanne Hadaway, Bettye and Alan Broadwater, Gary Atwell, David Walsh, Helen Monk, Melissa, Jamie, Jackson and Grant Cline, and Marilee Triplett.
- Staying overnight in case something came up (which it didn't!) were Judy and Darrell Davies, Katie and Maryclaire Mintz and Jane Spicer.
- Driving the cantankerous van for those needing a ride and also moving beds were Bill and Emily Booth, Ron Moore, Marvin Evans, Danny Barnes and Ken Wolf. Their jobs will become more fun in May since Family Promise is purchasing a new van with grant funding!
- Fixing up rooms and breaking down things were Amanda Ladd and Sam Spicer.
- The massive amount of laundry produced this week was washed, dried, folded and put back in place by Janice Fladd, Maxine LeFever and Pat Thomas (with 13 people, it was a lot!).
- The Friendship Sunday School class relocated for 2 Sundays to allow one family to live in their classroom!

Please thank these folks for representing us as the hands and feet of Jesus to these 4 families (6 adults and 7 children) this past week! Let me know if you want a chance to serve during our next host weeks, May 10-24. Talk to any of them or to me to find out how easy and rewarding it is to help out! Jane Spicer jdspicer@ec.rr.com 622-12111

## **ONE THING FOR MARCH**

Water and orange trees sound like an oasis. This is what you can help provide for the city of Rotifunk in Sierra Leone. This poverty-stricken country is recovering from 11 years of civil war followed by an Ebola epidemic. To purchase an orange tree to add to an existing orchard is about \$5.00, and a case of water is roughly \$3.00. Your donations can be put in the *ONE THING* drop box in the Welcome Center or labeled Sierra Leone Missions and put in the offering plate.

Read Sam Spicer's words below to learn more details about the conditions in Sierra Leone and what is being done to improve the quality of life there.

West African countries experience about 8 months of dry season and 4 months of rainy season each year. There is no plumbing, so houses lack running water and toilets. Superficial wells tend to become easily contaminated from the lack of toilets. The only deep well in town is on the hospital grounds, which provides clean drinking water for the hospital (this well had to be re-dug in the most recent dry season, as it had dried up!). Local people purchase water in plastic pouches, shipped into town, for drinking. If they need water for cooking or washing, water from the contaminated wells or from the contaminated river must first be boiled in order to be usable. Funds for water will go toward another deep well for the people of the city and the hospital.

Rotary International is providing much of the funding for an orchard in Rotifunk. A well is being dug for irrigation of the orchard. It will eventually include orange, lime, coconut, guava and plum trees, over 4,000! It is estimated that the income from the fruit can bring in about \$50,000 per year, half of which will go to education in the area and half to the hospital care for people in the region. In addition, the presence of the orchard means that 20 full time jobs, plus 100 part-time and seasonal jobs will be created, which is a huge bonus in an area where most are subsistence farmers and wages are low or non-existent. The orchard is also being interplanted with vegetable crops to cover the cost of the orchard after the grant is used up. Funds for orange trees will buy trees for the orchard, whose costs are not totally covered by the Rotary grants.

If you would like to help with funding projects in Sierra Leone, please put a check in the offering, clearly earmarking it for Mission of Hope. You could also hand a check to Sam Spicer of our congregation, who serves on the board of Mission of Hope. MOH is working with the people of Rotifunk and the Norwegian UMC to improve their health and their lives. Sam is happy to answer any questions you might have. 910 352-5771

## **LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE**

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, **8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am** - **Three Easter Sunday Worship Services**

Sunday, May 10-Sunday, May 24 - **Interfaith/Family Promise**

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

**Corey & Dave's Excellent Adventure: Missionary Bootcamp**

July 8-14, 2020 - **San Isidro, Costa Rica Mission Trip**

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