

# Grace Notes

September 13, 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 Worship Service — September 13

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at 8:00 am. You may worship by going to either:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gumcwillmington>

YouTube:

[Link coming on Saturday](#)

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>

#### Sunday School Class—10:30 am

Grace is holding a Sunday School for everyone. Pastor Tal will his new series on September 20.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 13,  
CLASS RESUMES ON SEPTEMBER 20.**



*The purpose of the \$20 Fellowship is to ensure that Grace Church's beautiful buildings and campus last for generations.*

The Fellowship's goal for 2020 is \$78,000. Much more may be needed if there is another major storm. With four months to go and storm season upon us, the \$20 Fellowship fund balance is presently about \$27,000.

The program is based on as many members as possible giving an extra \$20 a week *over and above* our regular contributions to the operating budget. If you can't give \$20 a week, give what you can, when you can.

Prayerfully consider participation in the Fellowship.

The \$20 Fellowship needs You!

#### 4th Annual Joint Worship Service With St. Stephen AME

For the past four years, Grace UMC and St. Stephen AME have held a joint worship service on World Communion Sunday; the first Sunday in October.

Grace and St. Stephen will continue their tradition this year on **Sunday, October 4**, with a joint on-line Sunday morning worship service and then drive-through Holy Communion at Grace, 11:30 am—12:30 pm. Links to the worship service will be on the Grace website and sent to you in the usual Saturday email.

The staff members of both churches will be working together to record different parts of the service. Pastor Thomas Nixon from St. Stephen will bring the message and both music ministries will contribute music for the service. Both congregations are looking forward to celebrating the connection these two churches have shared for over 150 years.

### HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS? (Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

#### Online Attendance & Offering for 8/30/2020

Worship Service: 194 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 9/2—9/9	\$ 8,863
<b>August</b>	
Operating Funds Given YTD	\$ 465,088
Operating Expenses YTD	\$ 478,509
Balance	\$ (13,421)

2020 Operating Budget = \$ 747,178

#### August

\$20 Fellowship Received 2020 YTD	\$ 39,897
\$20 Fellowship Spent 2020 YTD	\$ 38,217*

Apportionments are paid through August.

\*includes funding and expenses related to hurricane repairs

### Continuing Grace's Mission

Our giving enables Grace to continue to provide support for work within the congregation and for its missions in the world.

Here are the ways to continue to give and support Grace with your tithes and offering:

- You can mail your check to Grace at the following address: Grace UMC, 401 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC 28401
- On-line banking (Many banks allow you to set up checks to pay) The address is (Grace Address)
- Auto draft. Grace can debit your account and can be set up with Debbie. You can determine the amount and frequency of the draft.
- Go to the Grace UMC website ([gracedowntown.net](http://gracedowntown.net)) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

### Empty Bowls 2020 Ticket Holders

The Empty Bowls event will not be rescheduled this year, however ticket holders can go to Good Shepherd and select from a limited group of bowls. **You must go online and book an appointment with Stacy at Good Shepherd** Masks are required to enter the Good Shepherd building.

Friends can book an appointment together and carpool or send someone with their ticket if they're not ready to venture out yet.

<https://calendly.com/sgeist/empty-bowls-pick-up-appointment>

### Don't Keep It a Secret!

If you have a change of address, phone number or email address, please share it with us! Send the changes to Marion Little - [marion@gracedowntown.net](mailto:marion@gracedowntown.net)  
Thanks!

## Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Family of Betsy Adkins  
Corey & Rachel Alban  
Mayleigh Allen  
Chris Beahan  
Louise Berry  
Gary Blauvelt  
Joyce Blauvelt  
Robert Bowen  
Tommie Boyd  
Caleb  
Carolyn  
Celeste  
Misty Chidester  
Erin Cissel  
Greg & April Colburn  
Mary Cole  
Ray Cox  
Becky Cummings  
Wendy Cupps  
Dawn  
Pat DiGiuseppe  
Brittany Gifford  
Julie Godwin  
Sid Goode  
Janice Gurganus  
Darcy Guthrie  
Hank  
Jimmy Hauk  
Steve Hooper  
Dawn Hubbard  
Dick Hull  
Jackson & Avery  
Jerrel  
Kaye

Maria King  
Lia Mason  
Phoebe Romine McLeod  
Heather Meyer  
Brad Mischler  
Kirk Mitchell  
Ronnie Monroe  
Carolyn Pope  
Jeffrey Powers  
Tim Powers  
Jeff Price  
Steve Ragan  
JC Riggs  
Mary Ellen Riggs  
Family of Jean Rogers  
Joe Rogers  
Gary Rowe  
Mike & Gail St. Germain  
Peggy Sawyer  
Barbara Schlagowsky  
Shawn, Kelsey & Skyler  
Solomon  
Roger Swilley  
Rebecca Taylor  
Jim Teachey  
Marshall Thomasson  
Laura Upchurch  
Martha Vann  
Linda Wengerd & Family  
Ruby Williams  
Beth Williamson  
Macon Worth  
Barry Zigler

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

Also, please pray for:

- The demise of the coronavirus pandemic
- All medical personnel
- All those working with the public
- 12 noon Prayer Explosion

If you have a prayer request, please contact **Sandy Smith** at [sandysmithgrace@gmail.com](mailto:sandysmithgrace@gmail.com) or 910-233-0310.

### New Zoom Sunday School Class

*"Discover Your Spiritual Gifts, Personal Style, and God-Given Passion for Ministry"*

In his study book, What You Do Best in the Body of Christ, Bruce Bugbee helps you discover your God-given spiritual gifts, personal style, and ministry passion. He shows how these gifts point to your unique role and purpose in the body of Christ when they are expressed together. Across nine sessions you'll discover:

- How your God-given spiritual gifts indicate what you are equipped to do in ministry,
- How your God-given personal style indicates how you can serve with energy and genuineness, and
- How your God-given ministry passion indicates where you are motivated to serve

**The first session is Sunday, September 20, 10:30am.**

All nine sessions will be on Zoom (the meeting link will be emailed each week). Tal will lead the class.

You'll need a copy of Bruce Bugbee's book What You Do Best in the Body of Christ. The books are \$10 each.

You can order it one of two ways:

1. You can place an order on Amazon and have it shipped to you, or
2. The church has ordered a few extra copies beyond what was requested. If you would like a copy, contact the office and either mail in your check or use PayPal on the Grace website. Your book will be available to pick up in the Welcome Center prior to class start.

### UMW News

The United Methodist Women had their first meeting of the fall via Zoom, Tuesday, September 1. Below are a few actions items.

#### **Project Agape: Christmas shoes boxes for Armenia**

The ministry has a sufficient supply of shoeboxes for this year. They ask that you consider a financial contribution instead. Please make your check payable to Grace UMC with NCC Advance #S-00004 on the memo line.

#### **Beth Moore Bible Studies for Everyone**

If you google Beth Moore Bible Studies, you will find that she has a free online study on Tuesdays that began September 8. You can register for the class and buy the necessary book online. This study is of 2 Timothy entitled "Entrusted." The videos will remain online until November 30, so you can catch up. **Additionally**, several Grace ladies are meeting via Zoom on Thursdays at 10 am to discuss that week's study. If you would like to join them, contact Linda Snider at [snidersnc@gmail.com](mailto:snidersnc@gmail.com)

#### **Pillowcase Dresses & Masks**

There are now more dress kits in the Welcome Center and also fabric that can be used to make masks. Please continue to make these much needed items for Methodist Home for Children and bring them to the Welcome Center.

## Catching Up on Missions at Grace

### **Do you have extra "stuff"?**

A Grace member recently contacted the church office wanting to give away a surplus sofa that's in great shape. Family Promise said they could use it. Danny Barnes and crew delivered it to the families at Family Promise within the week, where these hard-working families now have a great place to rest when they come "home". Many thanks to the donor and the delivery team!

Many of you are using your extra time at home to go through, clean up and give away things you no longer need. If you find yourself with extra furniture, linens, towels and other household items (gently used of course), Family Promise and Methodist Home for Children, both of whom serve families, would love to have them! Please contact Jane Spicer at 622-1211 to donate. Thank you!

### **Note from those in the know at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard:**

Even though the Cupboard is now only able to be safely and consistently staffed to open 2 days a week (Wednesdays and Saturdays), we estimate that we served somewhere in the ballpark of 3800-4500 in August alone. Compare that to pre-COVID when we were open 5 days a week and we were serving roughly 2700-3000 clients each month!

So how can you help? So happy you asked! Our partners are providing some great stuff, but we are unable to buy in bulk due to COVID restrictions at the stores. So there are some items always in need. Marie Cooke (marievcooke@gmail.com) has committed to being at the Cupboard on the 4th Fridays of every month from 11 am - 1 pm for donation drop offs at the 4th street door. If you can buy some of the seemingly always almost out items below or organize a food drive with people who are able to help - we will be sure the food makes it to those of our neighbors who continue to struggle to put healthy food on their tables.

- . brown rice
- . regular oatmeal
- . juice boxes
- . water
- . mac and cheese/rice a roni
- . toilet tissue
- . whole grain cereals
- . canned legume beans (navy, kidney, black)
- . healthy low sodium soups
- . bar soap

**ALSO**.....Please spread the word and send interested, healthy under 55 volunteers to our website: motherhubbardsnc.org Those who prefer may drop donations off at Grace UMC where they will also be picked up weekly. Thanks!!!!

**Family Promise/WIHN** continues to serve families. They are so grateful for the continued support of Grace Church! We are not yet able to house them in the church due to COVID restrictions. They are housed in separate apartments still. Many of the parents are essential workers since they are often in food service, custodial or childcare jobs, so their lives are busy as they strive toward financial independence.

There is a continuing need for meals for them that can be donated as gift cards, financial donations or the old fashioned way of bringing meals to them (the staff can do the distribution if need be). Financial donations can be mailed to Grace at 401 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC 28401, with checks made out to FPLCF. Gift cards can be left at the church office, labelled FPLCF. If you would like to personally cook a meal, please contact Jane Spicer to help out with arrangements at 910 622-1211.

If you have gently used furniture or linens, they can be used to help families starting out in their own housing. Please contact the office at 769-4730 about this type donation. Thank you!

**Methodist Home for Children** continues with its work with troubled children, youth and families during the pandemic. The staff have the added challenges of remote learning in the group homes. Some of the young adults are the essential workers at our fast food restaurants. Social distancing changes the ease of communicating, counselling and other important features of helping these kids and families.

Ordinarily, we would be gearing up for one of the major fund-raising events, the Epicurean Evening, held right here in Wilmington! It is typically an evening of good food, fellowship, exciting auction items. But due to COVID restrictions, the 2020 event was cancelled. Methodist Home is now asking that, instead of attending the evening, supporters consider financially donating this year. If you would like to support their amazing work with at risk children in our community, you can send a check to Grace at 401 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC 28401, made out to Methodist Home for Children. Your prayers are also gratefully received by both families and staff!