

# Grace Notes

September 1, 2019

## 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, September 1

8:30 am Worship Service/Holy Communion  
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/Holy Communion

#### Monday, September 2 - Labor Day

**Church Office Closed**

5:30 pm Boot Camp

#### Tuesday, September 3

10:30 am United Methodist Women  
6:00 pm Basketball  
7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

#### Wednesday, September 4

10:00 am Staff Meeting  
11:30 am Gentle Yoga Class  
5:30 pm Bootcamp  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, September 5

12:00 pm Welcome Table

#### Saturday, September 7

8:30 am Annual Chancel Choir Retreat

#### Sunday, September 8

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  
5:30 pm Back-to-School Skate Party

### UMW New Program Year Starts

The first UMW meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 3, 10:30**, in the Bullock Activity Center. Martha Worsley will be our speaker and she will update us on MATCH —Mothers and Their Children. MATCH is a ministry at the NC Correctional Institution for Women and Their Children. Martha will also report on her recent trip to Haiti and how the dresses that we made were received.

Your hostesses for this meeting will be the Leadership Team and the theme will be *End-of-Summer Picnic*. We will be serving hot dogs, baked beans, slaw, chips, desserts, deviled eggs, tea and coffee.

Lastly, we will be sending the information to the District for the Candle Burning Ceremony shortly. Candles from each district in the conference are burned for a specific number of minutes in honor of those that the Units in the District specify. The Leadership Team voted to send \$72.00 for 2 minutes of time in honor of Barbara Lyons, Margaret Payne, Marion Still, Betty Singletary, and Jean Mayhew. If any of you have someone you want to honor, please call Linda Snider (910-620-3756). The list will be sent on August 31.

This very active group of Christian ladies invites any women in the church to join them. ***Come and enjoy great fellowship!***

**The Grace UMC office will be closed on  
Monday, September 2,  
in observance of  
Labor Day.**

**It will re-open on Tuesday,  
September 3, 8:30 am**

### 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](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.

Karen Adrieana	Jeffrey Morefield
Alan Biddle	Ruth O'Dwyer
Gail Braun	Nancy Pritchett
George Braun	Noah Roberts
Claudia Burnette	Jack Ross, Jr.
Bruce Celetto	Tim Russell
David Cooper	Carlson Rowe
Dale Cromartie	Uta Rowe
Jim Cromartie	Mary Shuppig
Danielle Cupps	Joe Skobel
Jeff Cupps	Cozette Southerland
Zach DeForge	Kathy Spitzner
Lisa Eubank	Ed Threlkeld
Catherine Leigh Gold	Dennis Troup
Family of James Hickmon	Esther Upchurch
Barbara Jackson	Caroline Vincent
Maria King	Foy White-Chu
Ryan Layton	Janet Williams
Jessica Martin	

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  
LCDR Nicholas Madren, USN  
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  
E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

### Back to School Skate Party!

**Sunday, September 8**

**5:30-7pm**

**Scooters Skating Rink**

(341 Shipyard Blvd.)

*Join us as we kick off our Fall programs!  
Regular skate rental - Free  
Roller Blades and Scooterz Scooters - \$3*

We will have pizza and drinks as well as some special treats! Come and skate (bring your own scooter or skates or grab some here). This will be a chance to have fun and learn about our winter events.

Bring a friend, invite a neighbor, and let's kick off our school year together!

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: \_\_\_\_\_

### Grace's Chancel Choir Prepares

Grace's Chancel Choir members will participate in the 16th Annual Choir Retreat on Saturday, September 7, 8:30 am - 2:45 pm. The day will commence with a brief worship service at which guest pastor Tara Lain, from Trinity UMC, will share a homily. Throughout the day the members will take part in choir family building activities and music preparation.

The main focus for the day will be rehearsing anthems that will be sung for regular Sunday morning worship services as well as special worship services, such as World Communion Sunday (a combined service with St. Stephen AME Church), All Saints Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, and the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Please pray for a successful and meaningful retreat for the choir members as they prepare to help lead worship services through music.

### Marriage Tune-Up

To go along with the new Sunday Night Family Ministries programs, Pastor Tal will hold a 3-session adult course called "Marriage Tune-Up".

The classes will start at 5:20 pm and last about an hour each. The dates are September 15, 22 and 29.

Among the topics covered will be:

- Moving from falling in love to being in love for the long haul
- How to argue well
- Staying connected during the busy years

Come take a look at what makes marriages strong. Childcare will be offered through the Children's Ministry programs.

### Family Ministries Night Moves to Sunday

Join us for: **BLAST**  
(Believe-Learn-and Seek the Truth)

Sundays - 5:00 pm—6:30 pm  
Starting September 15!

Opening: Family mini-worship service, followed by:

Adult Bible Study/Social Time

Mustard Seeds Nursery Time

Powerful Play for PreK-2nd grade

Compassion Bible Study  
(groups for 3-5 grade, middle school, high school)

Sonshine Singers (grades 3-5)

Solid Rock Singers (grades 6-9)

Questions? Contact Kelley Ahlers:  
Kelley@gracedowntown.net

### Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent by Beth Moore

Ladies, join us for the fall Women's Bible Study

**NEW DAY: Thursday**

**This 7-week study begins on September 19 and ends on October 31.** It will meet in the Church Parlor, 9:30-11:30 am.

The cost will be approximately \$15.00 for the student book. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center. Please sign up so we'll know how many books to order. NOTE: This study was done several years ago, so you might already have this book at home. Please indicate on the sheet if you already have a book.

We all may want to stay after the study to have lunch at the Welcome Table in the Bullock Activity!

Come join us as we study Psalms 120 through 134.  
Any questions: Call Linda Russ 910-520-3111  
or Linda Snider 910-620-3756

### Answer This Question

Have you ever felt called to do mission work?

Join the conference team November 29 thru December 10, 2019, as we work to improve the lives of women and children in Rotifunk, Sierra Leone, a very rural and poor part of a poor country.

No medical expertise required. The all inclusive cost is \$2,500/person, with some scholarships available.

If you are interested in joining this effort or supporting a local missionary with a monetary donation, please contact Sam Spicer at 910.352.5771 or [sspicer@ec.rr.com](mailto:sspicer@ec.rr.com)



*Save the Date!*

*Cinderella's Closet Fundraiser*

*A Masquerade Ball*

Saturday, February 8, 2020  
Brooklyn Arts Center



## Merry Christmas!

Members of Grace again have a chance to send a box of Christmas gifts to children in Armenia through our North Carolina Conference's AGAPE mission. A landlocked mountainous country in Eurasia, Armenia is bordered by Turkey, Georgia, Iran, and Azerbaijan. The children in this poverty-stricken country are not remembered through any other mission entities. Nara Melkonyan, an Armenian missionary supported by our conference, oversees distribution of these gifts to the local children at Christmas. To read more about this project, please go to

<https://nccumc.org/outreach/project-agape>

### **Supplies are available in the Welcome Center!**

Here's what you do:

- Pick up a small (6-quart) plastic box with lid from the table in the Welcome Center. You may buy your own, but they should be 6-quart, hard plastic with lids that fit, secured with two rubber bands.
- Pick up a list from beside the boxes with suggestions as to what to put into the boxes. Check off what you add to the box. You may add other age-appropriate items and list them in the "other" designation. Please enclose the list in your box.
- Place in the top of the box \$5 in cash or a check (made out to NC Conference UMC, earmarked Agape Christmas Boxes) to cover the cost of shipping for your box. Members of the Missions Committee will take the boxes to our drop off location where they will be transported to Goldsboro for shipment to Armenia!
- Completed boxes need to be returned to the Welcome Center **by Sunday, September 23!**

If you have questions, please contact Marie Allison at [alli7173@hotmail.com](mailto:alli7173@hotmail.com) or 910-675-0612. Thanks in advance!

## The Story Begins Sunday, September 15

The "Greatest Story Ever Told" is more than just a cliché. God goes to great lengths to rescue lost and hurting people. That is what *The Story* is all about—the story of the Bible—God's great love affair with humanity.

Condensed into 31 accessible chapters, *The Story* sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible characters and events from Genesis to Revelation. Using the clear, accessible text of the NIV Bible, it allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. And like any good story, *The Story* is filled with intrigue, drama, conflict, romance, and redemption—and it's all true!

Everyone is invited to join in this journey. Classes are available for ages 3-93. Classes will start on September 15th, and cover one chapter each week. Books are \$10 and come in Pre-k, children's, youth, adult and large print adult versions. Adult classes participating in this study are Inner Grace and Travelers. If you wish to do this study on your own, you are also welcome to pick up a book. It is our hope that, as we all read through *The Story*, the events that unfold will become topics of discussion throughout the year at home, at church, and with friends.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Kelley Ahlers: [Kelley@gracedowntown.net](mailto:Kelley@gracedowntown.net)

## Thank You

Dear Grace Family,

Our deepest thanks for your prayers, cards, meals and visits during our recent medical struggles. We are truly blessed to be a part of this loving body of Christ.

In Christ,  
George & Gail Braun

## Devotionals On-Line

Thanks to the work of Olivia Walsh, Graces Social Media Manager, weekly video devotionals by Pastor Tal are posted to Grace's Facebook mid-day on Tuesday.

These videos are 1-2 minutes in length and designed to turn our thoughts towards God in the middle of our busy lives.

Check them out at:  
[facebook.com/gumcwilmington](https://www.facebook.com/gumcwilmington)

## Joint Worship Service

With

**St. Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
Grace UMC Sanctuary

World Communion Sunday, October 6, 4 pm

Message by: Pastor Thomas Nixon, St. Stephen AME

Both Grace's Chancel Choir and St. Stephen's Choir will sing during the service, and Holy Communion will be celebrated.

At one point in their history, Grace and St. Stephen were one church. In 1865, over 600 people pulled out of Grace to form St. Stephen. It is a joyful and fitting occasion for us to worship together each year.

Grace will hold its regular 8:30 and 11:00 am services that day. Mark your calendars and take part in this special worship opportunity.

## Welcome Meal

Grace offers the Welcome Meal **every** Thursday at noon. Folks come from all walks of life. Folks come who have no home. The meal is given away—no one is charged a dime. It's a great opportunity to build bridges and to share Jesus Christ with others.

Grace partners with the Hope Center in offering this meal. This outreach continues to grow. There were 100 people served on a recent Thursday.

You are welcome to come take part: be a table server or be one who sits at the table and eats with whoever shows up.

You are encouraged come and take part in the wonderful conversations that are a large part of these meals.

## **LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE**

Saturday, September 7, 8:30 am-2:30 pm - **Annual Chancel Choir Retreat**

Sunday, September 8, 9:45 am - **New Sunday School Year Starts**

Sunday, September 8 - **Back-to-School Skate Party** at Scooter's Skating Rink

Sunday, September 15, 5:00-6:30 pm - **Children, Youth & Family Night Program Year Kick-Off**

Sunday, October 6, 4:00 pm - **Joint Worship with St. Stephen AME Church** at Grace

Sunday, October 20 - **Youth and Children's Sunday**

Sunday, October 27 - **Grace Annual Fall Festival**

Sunday, December 1-Sunday, December 8 - **Host Family Promise/WIHN**

Sunday, December 15, 11:00 am - **A Service of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace** led by the Chancel Choir

Saturday, February 8, 2020 - **Cinderella's Closet Fundraiser - *A Masquerade Ball*** at the Brooklyn Arts Center