

Grace Notes

September 6, 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 6

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 continue his class series this week.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON SEPTEMBER 6 & 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 Widow's Mite

You probably remember the story of the Widow's Mite from the book of Luke (Luke 21: 1 - 4). While Jesus was in the temple, he saw the rich people putting their gifts in the temple treasury. Then he saw a poor widow putting in two very small copper coins. Jesus noted that the rich gave what they would hardly miss, but because she was poor, the widow's gift far surpassed the rich folks' generosity. Obviously in Jesus' eyes, it's not the size of the gift that counts – what counts is the giving and the willing spirit behind it!

While our opportunity for giving to sustain Grace for the future is called the Twenty Dollar Fellowship, every member of Grace is invited to join the Fellowship by giving what they can, when they can.

The Fellowship needs You!

Office Closed for Holiday

The Grace Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2020, in observance of Labor Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, September 8, 8:30 am.

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
Thanks!

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

Online Attendance & Offering for 8/30/2020

Worship Service: 204 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 8/26—9/2 \$ 9,840

August

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) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

Sewing Ministry Needs Your Help for Methodist Home for Children

Thanks to all who made face masks for the Methodist Home for Children. Please continue to make these, as many of the children have started school and the need for masks is great. You may continue to drop them off at the Welcome Center.

Great news! All the pillowcase dress kits have been taken from the bin in the Welcome Center! A few more kits are now available in the Welcome Center. Or, you can Google "pillowcase dress pattern" and get the pattern and see videos on the construction. If you have some fabric at home, this would be a great way to use it. Please bring your completed garments to the Welcome Center.

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Corey & Rachel Alban	Heather Meyer
Mayleigh Allen	Pam Miller
Chris Beahan	Brad Mischler
Louise Berry	Kirk Mitchell
Gary Blauvelt	Ronnie Monroe
Joyce Blauvelt	Carolyn Pope
Christine Boone	Jeffrey Powers
Robert Bowen	Lillian Powers
Tommie Boyd	Tim Powers
Caleb	Jeff Price
Celeste	Steve Ragan
Erin Cissel	JC Riggs
Steve Cleary	Mary Ellen Riggs
Mary Cole	Family of Jean Rogers
Ray Cox	Joe Rogers
Becky Cummings	Gary Rowe
Wendy Cupps	Peggy Sawyer
Betsy Foreman	Barbara Schlagowsky
Pat DiGiuseppe	Valoree Shinn
Brittany Gifford	Shawn, Kelsey & Skyler
Julie Godwin	Solomon
Sid Goode	Roger Swilley
Janice Gurganus	Rebecca Taylor
Darcy Guthrie	Jim Teachey
Hank	Marshall Thomasson
Jimmy Hauk	Darlene Tyndall
Steve Hooper	Laura Upchurch
Dick Hull	Michael Waddell
Jackson & Avery	Linda Wengerd & Family
Jerrel	Ruby Williams
Kaye	Beth Williamson
Maria King	Carol Worth's mother
Lia Mason	Macon Worth
Phoebe Romine McLeod	Barry Zigler
Margaret Merritt	

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 or 910-233-0310.

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

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.

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 distributed in the usual Saturday email.

The staff members of both churches will be working together to record different parts of the service at each facility. 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.

Extra Pews Available

The Trustees are in the process of cleaning out Grace's chapel so that it can be repurposed for much needed storage. There are 17 surplus pews down there that need to be cleared from the space.

If any member is interested in having one of these pews, please contact Marvin Evans by Friday, September 18. Any remaining pews will be sold after that date.
Marvin Evans
757-570-8965 or marvinevans295@gmail.com

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!