

# Grace and Peace

A Newsletter from Grace Methodist Church (*The Miracle Church*)

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[Grace Methodist Church where people gather to celebrate, serve, and grow in Christ.]



## **A Message from Pastor Kip**

"Well, that should do it!" I thought to myself, "No one will ever find it here!" And as far as I know, no one has found it yet. Not even me.

We were getting ready to go out of town, and as is my custom, I hid my check book just in case some bad guys decide to break into our house while we were away. I always make sure to put it somewhere that a thief would never look. Maybe in the pocket of a pair of pants hanging in the closet. Or tapped to the bottom of a heavy piece of furniture. Or maybe between the box springs and one of the boards that support the box springs.

I had noticed that it was missing from where I usually keep it, but I didn't really think too much about that. I knew it had to be somewhere, and eventually I would find it easy enough. Then as weeks passed, it began to trouble me that I hadn't accidentally stumbled across it. And of course, it wasn't just the check book. In it, I believe, was a paycheck from the church and some cash. When Wanda asked me why I hadn't deposited that particular check, I had to try and remember even getting one for that month. I waited another week or so, and I never found the check. It must be hiding with the check book. Maybe they were all hiding in my car or the truck. You know they like to hide under the seats or between the front seats and the center console. Maybe I was really on my way to the bank and lost them all at the same time. But I never take the check book to the bank.

Now I was getting nervous. I searched all my hiding places that the thief will never find and I found nothing. I went through all my hanging clothes. I went through all my folded clothes in my dresser. I looked in all my shoes in the closet. I even looked in my tie bag, and still nothing! Where had my check book, check, and cash run off to?

### **Pastor Kip...continued**

There had been no checks written from my account, so I had to assume that no one had found it and tried to clean out my account. After another week or so, I went to the bank and explained my predicament. The lady at the bank had apparently heard this tale before. She was not surprised and knew exactly what to do about it. In no time at all I left with a new checking account and the promise of checks coming in the mail soon. Great.

I cannot tell you how much this missing checkbook irked me. I looked everywhere! I tore the house apart searching. I prayed repeatedly, repeatedly, and then prayed more just in case God didn't catch the first few hundred prayers. Nothing! I KNOW He knows exactly where it is! He can see it clearly. Yet God says not one word as to where to go and retrieve it. Nothing!

In the Gospel of Matthew, 6:19-20, Jesus tells the people the following warning: **19** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

I couldn't begin to count the number of hours I have spent searching, praying and pondering over this missing "treasure". And still, nothing! Is there a message here somewhere? My guess is; "Probably so." My account was not tampered with and one trip to the bank established a new account with no loss of funds. The missing paycheck was canceled and a new one issued. The cash? Well, that's gone. It should have been in the bank months prior anyway. I was trying to imagine what the outcome of spending an equal amount of "searching time" in prayer would have accomplished? Well, I will never know. So, I learned my lesson about hiding treasures. And I was also reminded about seeking and storing up treasures in heaven at least to the equivalence of time that I wasted in time spent searching. And yes, I KNOW that God knows exactly where everything is! And He's not ready to talk about just yet - if ever.

Blessings, Pastor Kip

### **Card Making...Sharon Miller**

If you enjoy having fun, fellowship, and laughter, join the card-making group. Plan on meeting at Grace Methodist on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00. All are invited. No previous experience is necessary. Come enjoy the fellowship.

### **Faith Community Nurse (FCN)...Karen Kline**

What exactly is a Faith Community Nurse (FCN)? Is it the same as a Parish Nurse? Well, I'll explain. Parish Nursing was recognized as a nursing specialty practice in 1997 by the American Nursing Association (ANA). In 2025 the title was changed to Faith Community Nurse to encompass the scope of other denominations. Defined by the "Faith Community Scope and Standards of Practice": "Faith community nursing is a specialized professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as well as the promotion of whole-person health and the prevention or minimalization of illness within the context of a Faith Community and the wider community."

### Faith community Nurse...continued

According to the 2017 ANA Scope and Standards of Practice the preferred minimal preparation for entry into Faith Community Nursing is:

- \*Baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing (BSN)
- \*Current experience as an RN using the nursing process
- \*Knowledge of the community's healthcare assets and resources
- \*Knowledge of the faith community spiritual beliefs and practices

What exactly does an FCN do? Well, first you do a health assessment of the faith community to assess health needs. You then provide education and resources, promote health, prevent illness and care for the spirit. You also provide spiritual care thru prayer and listening, do home and hospital visits as needed and be a support group facilitator. FCNs are licensed registered nurses who work with faith community leaders and community agencies.

In our area we are very blessed to be covered by the BayCare Health system. Their territory stretches from Citrus County down thru the Tampa Bay Area. I am connected to BayCare thru the Morton Plant Hospital and completed a 36 contact-hour course in "Foundations of Faith Community Nursing" thru them. Grace Methodist Church has contracted with BayCare for me as your FCN. BayCare also offers continued support through continuing education and resource assistance. Some FCNs are paid employees as I was at my previous church, and others are volunteers as I currently am with GMC.

If I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.

### Stephen Ministers...Carol MacKenzie

The Stephen Ministry program is active and serving members of Grace Methodist Church. New Stephen Ministers are available to serve and help you. For more information about the Stephen Ministers' program, contact Carol MacKenzie at (352) 382-8926 or Karen Kline at (352) 382-7263.

### Mission Moment...Samaritan's Purse...Donna Farmer

**GRACE GMC IS BLESSED AND ABLE TO BE A BLESSING TO MANY.** Thank you for your continuing support for Missions. **Your response to the Hurricane Relief Ministries was outstanding** . On Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> (with very little notice) you gave \$5500.00 to Faith Responders (a new Florida Global Methodist Church ministry) and \$285.00 to Samaritan's Purse. As of October 7<sup>th</sup>, you had already given nearly \$4000.00 to Samaritan's Purse for ministry wherever needed in the world. In addition to the emergency giving for these ministries you also recognized that our **SOS Fund** might have local needs, and they were able to disperse some funds to a couple of Homosassa families (with ties to our Grace family).

And you continue to provide food to the **Food Pantry at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC.**

### **Women of Worship (W.O.W)...Sharon Miller**

Don't forget the W.O.W.'s mission project is to collect canceled postage stamps as a year-round project. Please place your stamps in the stamp box on the table by the Food Pantry items. W.O.W. trims the stamps and sends them to Ft. Myers where they in turn sell them to collectors and use the money, they receive for Sunday School materials for third world countries and in the U.S. Also W.O.W is collecting soda pop-top tabs and you can place them in the container located at the food pantry table in our small fellowship hall.

### **Grace Place- News from the Ladies of Grace...Sue Pagano**

The Ladies are focused supporting activities of other groups at Grace Methodist Church for the rest of the year. They encourage everyone to join in- Santa for Seniors, Pancake Breakfasts, Christmas Open House and Christmas Concert with Eirinn Abu on December 15. We want to help make them successful!

### **Comfort & Care Meals...Sue Pagano**

Contact June Kirschbaum when you know of someone who could use a meal or a treat from Grace Methodist Church. This service through the Ladies of Grace is meant to nourish the body and the spirit. (Truth is that it also makes the givers feel really happy when they are helping others.) Contact June by phone: (352)382-0424 or email: [junekirsch13@gmail.com](mailto:junekirsch13@gmail.com)

### **THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM...Jan Wise**

How do I say thank you? How do I communicate my deep appreciation for the Body-of-Christ ministry extended to Tom and me during his final days among us, before he left for his heavenly home?

Maybe I can do it by sharing what God taught me in the process of the struggle and in the victory of Tom's homegoing. Victory came from a battle won, a long struggle ended, and the amazement of God's perfect answer to prayer.

Most of you know our last words to each other--Tom saying, "Sweetheart"; my answering my usual middle-of-the-night response, "What, honey?" Then Tom took his last breath and was gone. This sweet, gentle homegoing happened because of the many prayers of many people--a Body-of-Christ ministry.

God wants you to know, wants all who prayed to understand, that you are a part of this victory. Maybe you only prayed one prayer or maybe many, but your prayer for us created a walk of faith leading to the final, fulfilling last few moments of our time together on this earth. Thank you.

So, when we come together November 5th to celebrate Tom's life, you are not spectators at a funeral; you are participants with those who have won. So please, my brothers and sisters, don't sit in the back of the church and watch. Come up with the family, and together we will honor Tom with a Body-of-Christ victory celebration.



### **Eirinn Abu Concert Features Christmas Music December 15, 3 pm...Sue Pagano**

Saxophonist Eirinn Abu is returning to our church for an encore performance on Sunday, December 15, 3 pm. He will be performing a beautiful **Christmas Concert** in the sanctuary at 3pm. Tickets are on sale during the coffee hour. The cost is \$10 each. Community members can call the church (352-419-7702) or email: [suep@gracemethodistchurch.org](mailto:suep@gracemethodistchurch.org) to purchase tickets. Wouldn't it be a wonderful gift to invite family and friends to this Christmas concert? Bring them, too, to the open house!

### **Community Christmas Open House, December 15, 1-2:30 pm**

Our church is hosting a free Community Christmas Open House on Sunday, December 15, 1:00-2:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. This outreach event will be a time to wish "Merry Christmas" to the neighborhood around us in a joyful, delicious way. We will have hors d'oeuvres, cookies, and Christmas punch for families, singles and snowbirds who stop in. No program is planned. We will simply meet and greet guests, sharing some of the joy that reflects life at our church. Flyer invitations will be available on November 3 and members are encouraged to hand them out. Be sure sign up to bring appetizers or cookies for the event. For more information, see Jim and Joan Veronici.

**Note:** The open house will end at 2:30 pm so that guests for the 3 pm concert can be seated.

### **"Thank You" from FUMC, Homosassa, Food Pantry...Donna Farmer**

Grace Methodist Church received a "thank you" for all the food delivered to them for their food bank. The note stated....."Thank you for your donations and continued support for the Bread of Life Food Pantry. Your continued support enabled us to help feed 400 people in August. Thank you so much for all you do." Sincerely Wayne Brown & Melody Gherke and our staff of volunteers...FUMC Church of Homosassa.

### **Christmas Decorating...Alice Trusley**

Christmas is just around the corner! Our decorating committee will begin Christmas decorations on 11-29-24 and YOU are again invited to bring an **Angel and place on the tree which will be in the narthex**. Please bring your ANGEL ornament to church on Sunday, December 1 and decorate our tree. Again, we would like to see the tree covered with more angels. Also, if anyone has a decorating knack and is interested in helping with putting additional Christmas decorations around Grace, please contact me at 352-586-5511. All ideas are welcome.

### **Note of Thanks...Dianne Swick**

I am overwhelmed with the thoughtfulness and generosity of our congregation at Grace Methodist Church! I have received gifts, food, and genuine caring from so many at our church! God has blessed us with an awesome Church, thank you Lord!

## **Church-Wide Christmas Project...Women of Worship (W.O.W)...Sharon Miller**

**Women of Worship** has been doing Santa for Seniors each year as a mission project. This year W.O.W. is making this Christmas project a church-wide event. On November 8th, a tree will be in our mini-fellowship area with senior "bulbs" hanging on the tree. These bulbs have the gift items the seniors would like to receive for Christmas. Please select as many bulbs as you like. When you have completed your shopping, **place the unwrapped gifts in a gift bag, attach the "bulb" to the bag, and place it back under the tree by December 3.** W.O.W. will return them to the Home Instead Office. They In turn will give the gifts to each seni

## **Rummage Sale News**

Grace Methodist Church's rummage sale was held October 25-26, 2024. An announcement will be made Sunday, November 3, as to the amount that was collected. **Stay tuned and come to church Sunday to find out the amount!**

### **Dates to Save & Save**

- November 3 – Communion Sunday and celebrating All Saints Day
- November 3 – Ladies of Grace (LOG) @ 11:30
- November 5 – Tom Wise Celebration of Life @ 10:00 visitation & 11 service
- November 6 – Decorating Committee Meeting @ 2:30
- November 10 – Celebrating Veterans Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day – "thank a veteran"
- November 14 – Women of Worship (WOW) @ 2 pm
- November 17 – Jeanette McDougall's son's memorial service, after church service
- November 13 – Administrative Board Meeting @ 9 am
- December 1 – First Day of Advent
- December 8 – Blood Drive
- December 15 – Christmas Open House @ 1–2:30 pm
- December 15 – Eirinn Abu Encore Christmas Concert at 3 p.m.
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

### **Bible Studies, Prayer Groups, & Other Meetings at Grace Methodist Church**

- Mon 1 pm Memory Lane Support Group & Respite
- Tues 9 am Weight Management Meeting (women & men)
- Wed 7 am Men's Prayer Group at GMC followed by breakfast out
- Wed 4 pm Choir Practice led by Katherine Cornelius and Becky Jones
- Thurs 10 am S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)...Jan Wise
- Thurs 11:30 am Women of Worship (W.O.W) Lunch Bunch Bible Study...Sharon Miller
- Note....** (WOW) meet once a month on the second Thursday at 2
- Fri 10-12 am Bible Study, prayer concerns & fellowship led by Jan Wise
- Fri 10:15 am Bible study led by Pastor Farmer, Meadow Crest Clubhouse

**Grace Methodist Church is a member of the**

