

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.}

In this Issue

- ✓ Word from Pastor Kip Younger...page 1-2
- ✓ Ways of the Kingdom...Jan Wise...page 2-3
- ✓ Faith Community Nursing...Karen Kline...page 3-4
- ✓ Ladies of Grace...Sue Pagano...page 4-5
- ✓ Rummage Sale...Priscilla Frederick...page 5
- ✓ Vacation Bible School (VBS)...page 5
- ✓ Pancake Breakfast...page 5
- ✓ Nursery...page 5
- ✓ Dates to Save...page 6
- ✓ Bible Studies, & Prayer Groups...page
- ✓ Thank You from Samaritan's Purse...page 7



A Message from Pastor Kip

It is hard to fathom that our second Easter has come and gone! It seems to me that our first Easter as a new church was only a very short time ago! However, it has been a year! And what a year it has been. God continues to bless our new church in many ways. And as He does so, we can all see that He is also doing something new in our personal lives and in our church's life. And this is exactly what God said he would do.

Isaiah the prophet reminds us of the words God spoke to His people, in chapter 43, verses 18 & 19. ***“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”***

I don't think that “forgetting our former things” was all that hard, in that we are beyond that now. However, I know that leaving and placing our “former things” in the past was heartbreaking and stunning to many of us. It was probably our greatest hope that in starting a new church, we would be the recipients of God's grace to keep us as we were, only in a new place. But doing a “new thing” maybe not so much. Boy, were we wrong, if that was our greatest hope.

In the Isaiah writing, God asks His people “do you not perceive it?” Our answer is are resounding “YES!” to this question. We have seen God do amazing things in our “Miracle Church”. And, as we know, He is not done yet. He is continuing to make a way for our church through today's modern “wildernesses” and “wastelands.”

About the middle of this month, our church's request to the county permit office will come under review; perhaps you have seen the sign in the front yard. With their final approval of our permit

Pastor Kip...continued

request, we can then close on our purchase of the building! We will celebrate this on the appropriate Sunday.

We will have new signs up very soon as well. The old mason's sign on Hwy 19 is being replaced, and we will have two new signs mounted on our permanent sign in front of the church at the same time. There are a few things we want to do immediately following the closing on the building and it becomes ours. The exciting times of God's new thing are continuing!

During our Easter Egg Hunt we had two young families join us for our pancake breakfast and then of course they took part in the Easter Egg Hunt. We of course invited them to join us for worship the following Sunday. And with that invitation we realized that we were not prepared to receive them, in that they had very young children. In the week that followed, we have purchased and established a nursery area in our current fellowship hall. If we have small children attending worship, we will have a place for them, along with Miss Laurie's class.

However, there is one other item that we need for this new nursery. Guess what it could be. Yes, it's "YOU"! We will need help manning the nursery. Here's our tentative plan: We will have a sign-up form available on Sundays for the Sundays to come. We are asking for folks to sign up for the possibility of having kids in the nursery. We would ask that you arrive early enough (not at 4:00 or 5:00 am but maybe 9:30 - 9:45) and be in the narthex with Miss Laurie. If small kids come and their parents want to use the nursery, then we are set. If no one comes for the nursery, then the folks volunteering are free to go to worship. Please give this prayerful consideration. This is a new thing that God is going to do in our church when we are prepared to fulfill His plan to do so. You would be a part of His plan.

April is going to be an exciting month, adding to the past fifteen exciting months. I am so glad that you are all as excited as Pastor Bill and I, to be a part of the New Thing God is doing at Grace Methodist Church!

Blessings! Pastor Kip

Ways of the Kingdom.....Jan Wise

Two months ago: "When is Joy coming again"?

Last month: "When did you say Joy is coming"?

This week: "When will Joy be coming"? Is it soon"?

Joy is our daughter. She and husband Larry live in Michigan and come every three months to visit us. Larry does "man-around-the-house" jobs while Joy spends much of the time visiting with her dad, providing the focused attention he craves. Both bring a change and a rest from the monotony of our daily routine. So, very soon after they leave, promising a 3-month return, Tom begins asking "when". Because of Tom's lack of ability to comprehend time as we do, God has given me a way to help him understand the passage of three months.

First, I show him on the calendar the several weeks before we can expect them back. Then we start looking at anticipated returning events--his birthday, Christmas, warm weather, Easter,

Ways of the Kingdom....continued

etc. Then, as the actual month arrives, I become more specific. When he sees me airing out the guest room, doing extra cleaning in their area of the house and preparing for their specific needs, he figures it must be soon. Finally, when he sees me bringing in food we don't usually have around the house, he knows it's getting really close. Then, at last, I tell him to take a good morning nap because the kids are coming this afternoon, and he needs to be ready to enjoy them. But "when this afternoon" will be repeated until he hears Joy bursting in the door with, "Hi, daddy--we're here"!

Does that pattern sound familiar to you. Remember reading how the disciples kept asking Jesus "when"? As Jesus talked of the destruction of the temple, they asked, "when will these things happen"? (Lk 21:5-8). Jesus gave them specific signs and warnings, but because the disciples, like my husband with my explanations, could not comprehend Jesus' understanding of time, they really didn't anticipate his unfolding of history. Because of the disciples' lack of understanding, their last question to Jesus as he prepared to leave them came from their misunderstanding of his larger purpose. They asked, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel"? (Acts 1:6). Jesus told them it was not for them to know the Father's time and dates, and went on to explain what would be happening to them and what they would be doing.

Today many Christians are caught up in the "when" of Jesus' coming again. We need to be anticipating his return, but maybe our prayer might be, "Jesus, what do you want us to be doing while we wait for your return"? I'm sure Jesus' answer would be the same as he gave to the disciples: "Be filled with the Holy Spirit, and be my witnesses wherever you go". If we are busy following his directions, we certainly won't miss him when he comes!

Summer Heat is Coming...Karen Kline, Faith Community Nurse

We Floridians love to get outside to garden and play in the sun... But, do you know that muscle cramping may be the first sign of a heat related illness? With our Florida temperatures already on the rise you should know how to recognize heat exhaustion and heat stroke, know what you can do to treat them, and when it is time to call for help. Infants, children, and those of us over 65 are in greater danger of a heat related illness due to the body's reduced ability to regulate temperature. Obesity and certain medications can also be a factor.

Heat Exhaustion is due to the body is overheating. It occurs when you are exposed to high temperatures, especially when connected with high humidity and strenuous activity. It can also occur if you are dehydrated, overdressed, or drinking alcohol. It can occur suddenly or over time, especially with long periods of exercise. Heat exhaustion is preventable and treatable.

Symptoms:

Heavy sweating; Faintness; Dizziness; Fatigue; Weak-rapid pulse; Low blood pressure; Muscle cramps; Nausea and Headache.

Heat Stroke is due to the same causes as heat exhaustion, but occurs when the body's temperature reaches 104°F or higher. It requires immediate emergency treatment! Left untreated your brain, heart, kidneys, and muscles can be damaged. The longer you wait to

treat, the greater the risk of complications or death.

Symptoms:

Elevated body temperature; Altered mental state; Nausea and vomiting; Flushed skin; Rapid breathing; Racing heart; and Headache. Immediate treatment after calling 911 involves moving the person to a cooler area, removing excess clothing, and attempting to cool the person in any way you can.

Decrease your risk of heat related illness by taking a few precautions:

- Wear loose fitting, lightweight clothing; Use sunscreen; Drink plenty of fluids
- Ask your pharmacist if any of your medications put you at risk
- Never sit or leave anyone in a parked car in the sun with the windows up
- Take it easy and rest during the hottest times of the day
- If you are running errands or traveling this summer, take a cooler with you filled with water.

Be aware, start planning ahead, be safe, and have a wonderful healthy summer!

Ladies of Grace Have a Busy Calendar...Sue Pagano

The Ladies of Grace (LOG) focus on the needs of our congregation while developing fellowship and spiritual growth of our women. Our mission statement is: To faithfully serve and minister in our church and community through fellowship, service opportunities, spiritual growth and with social and worship events. Our signature scripture is *1 Peter 4:10: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."* Please come to our monthly meetings and join in.

Mark Your Calendar for These Events

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| Tuesday, April 9, 10am-1pm | Craft and Chat
Bring your craft project (knitting, crocheting, quilting, beading, sewing, etc.) and visit with others. Feel free to bring a snack or lunch. Coffee available. |
| Sunday, April 21, 11:30am-12:30pm | Ladies of Grace Meeting |
| Friday, May 10, 10am-Noon | Mother's Day Cookie Exchange |
| Tuesday, May 14, 10am-1pm | Craft and Chat
Bring your craft project (knitting, crocheting, quilting, beading, sewing, etc.) and visit with others. Feel free to bring a snack or lunch. Coffee available. |
| Sunday, May 19, 11:30am-12:30pm | Ladies of Grace Meeting |
| Saturday, September 14, 9am to 4pm | <u>First Annual Ladies Retreat</u>
Special guest speaker will be Nancy Kennedy, Author of Grace Notes and inspirational books. |

Ladies of Grace...continued

Comfort and Care Meals for Grace Members

Returning home from a hospital stay or recovering from illness are times when people need to rest, relax, and be nourished. The Ladies of Grace are offering support by providing a meal to church members. They will be contacted by the pastors, a Stephen Minister, or a bible study leader when a member needs assistance. A meal hostess will prepare and deliver the meal at a time agreed upon by the recipient.

This new service provides healthy, simple meals with attention to nutrition guidelines. Individualized orders are not provided, but we hope that the general recipes will be pleasing and helpful. For more information, contact June Kirschbaum at 352-382-0424.

TAKE A BOTTLE!.....FILL A BOTTLE! Sunday, April 7th to Sunday, May 26th

Pick up a baby bottle in the Fellowship Hall and fill with loose change....or dollar bills....or a check!

Return your bottle to church by May 26th!

**Support the Pregnancy and Family Life Center in Inverness
Any questions: see or call Sue Pagano @ 813-785-4166 or
Priscilla Frederick @ 352-212-4037**

Rummage Sale is Back!

Save the dates for Grace's fall rummage sale which will be on **Friday, October 25th and Saturday, October 26th**. Donation days are set for Saturday, September 7th and Saturday, October 5th from 9 until noon. Start that clean-up you have been meaning to do. Please use boxes or tubs for packing! Questions may be addressed to Priscilla Frederick @ 352-212-4037

Vacation Bible School (VBS)...Miss Laurie

VBS is scheduled for June 10-14, and Miss Laurie needs your help! Please see Miss Laurie and tell her you will "help." It is important that we know who will be helping because there is some training that needs to be accomplished since you will be working with children. Don't worry, there is no test after the course. Miss Laurie will complete the course for us, so please let her know that you will support our children's program at Grace Methodist Church.

Pancake Breakfast...Kent Kester

Grace's next pancake breakfast will be held on **April 27 from 8 am to 10 am.** Please note the time change. Grace's Men's Prayer Group will continue sponsoring this community-wide pancake breakfast at no charge to attendees; however, **DONATIONS** will be accepted. If you have any questions, please call Kent Kester at 814-553-2614.

Grace Has a Nursery

A big "thank you" goes out to a gracious member of our miracle church for the lovely nursery that she and her husband provided. Please stop by Fellowship Hall and look at the great little space that has been developed for the little ones that we are anticipating will attend our church.

Attention.....Grace Needs the Following

Since we are having some little ones attend our pancake breakfast, we need a booster chair and a highchair. If anyone would like to donate one or both items, please see Donna Farmer.

Dates to Save

- April 7, 2024 – Communion Sunday
- April 7, 2024 -- Take a Bottle...Fill a Bottle Begins
- April 9, 2024 – Ladies of Grace (LOG) Craft and Chat 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- April 10, 2024 -- Grace Board Meeting 9 a.m.
- April 11, 2024 – Women of Worship (WOW) 2 p.m.
- April 18, 2024 -- Planning & Development Hearing (Please Pray for successful outcome)
9 a.m. at Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Rm 166
- April 21, 2024 -- Ladies of Grace meeting at 11:30 a.m.
- April 27, 2024 -- Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- May 5, 2024 -- Communion Sunday
- May 8, 2024 -- Grace Board Meeting 9 a.m.
- May 9, 2024 -- Women of Worship (WOW) 2 p.m.
- May 12, 2024 -- Mother's Day
- May 14, 2024 -- Ladies of Grace (LOG) Craft and Chat 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- May 19, 2024 -- Ladies of Grace meeting at 11:30 a.m.
- Sept. 14, 2024 -- First Annual Ladies Retreat

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

- Sun 11:30 am Ladies of Grace meet 3rd Sunday of each month
- Mon 1:00 pm Memory Lane Support Group & Respite
- Tues 9:00 am Weight Management Meeting (women & men)
- Wed 7:00 am Men's Prayer Group at GMC followed by breakfast out
- Wed 4:00 pm Choir Practice led by Katherine Cornelius & Becky Jones
- Thurs 10:00 am S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)...Jan Wise
- Thurs 11:30 am Women's Lunch Bunch Bible Study led by Sharon Miller
- Note.... Women of Worship...Meet once a month on the second Thursday @ 2 p.m.
- Fri 10:00 am-11 Prayer concerns, joys, & fellowship...led by Jan Wise
- Fri 11 am -12 pm Bible Study...led by Jan Wise
- Fri 10:15 am Bible study led by Pastor Farmer, Meadow Crest Clubhouse

Words to Live By...

When you are weary and everything seems to be going wrong, you can utter these four words: "I trust You, Jesus," By doing so you release matters into God's control and you fall back into the security of God's everlasting arms.

Grace Methodist Church is a member of the



Thank You Letter

Below is a “thank you” letter from Franklin Graham for our contribution and partnership in the ministry of Samaritan’s Purse.

