

Grace and Peace

A Newsletter from Grace Methodist Church
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{Grace Methodist Church where people gather to celebrate, serve, and grow in Christ.}



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A message from Pastor Bill Farmer... Encountering Jesus

Throughout the Scriptures we see Jesus having many surprising encounters. It might be while walking down a road, at a funeral, or in a boat ready to sink. He also shows up when people are at work where people are mending nets or running a taxation office. He even shows up at weddings and banquets. Jesus wants to be with people, and He is willing to meet you anywhere.

Do you remember when you first encountered Jesus? I have known many who have been in church and doing good work but had not encountered Jesus. I have known many who had the direction of their life changed because they did encounter Him. The Apostle Paul had a blinding experience and those on the Emmaus Road had a gentle encouragement. For many Jesus comes into their life by total surprise, at a time they least expect.

During this next week we will have some strangers around our church building. They will be looking for bargains, good things to eat, a place for their children to have fun, or just to check out this new church. Let's make this a wonderful experience for all and an opportunity to encounter Jesus.

*May the Grace of God fill your life to overflowing with Peace,
Pastor Bill Farmer*

Ways of the Kingdom.Jan Wise

What do you remember about 9/11? What did the destruction and the unknown origin of the attacks cause you to think, to feel, to fear? Do you remember the many church services, people who hadn't been in church for a long time streaming into the buildings that were expected to offer comfort, assurance and confidence to those within their walls?

I have thought for a long time about what God wanted to say to us as a nation and as individuals that day. What did he observe about a nation that claims to be "under God", who prints "In God We Trust" on its monetary forms and has printed on the cap of the Washington Monument, "Laus Deo", which translates, "Praise be to God". Can it be he was warning us of the difference between where we once were and where we are now as a nation? God never disciplines or destroys without giving warning, in fact, several warnings.

Remember the prophets God sent to Israel? They came from all walks of life but all brought the same warning: "Repent and turn back to me and I will restore you and grant you favor once again". He urged them again and again, finally telling them he would send enemy nations to overrun their country and make them servants in a foreign land.

God's promise to his chosen people in the land he had given them showed the way they could avoid such a disaster. God said, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land". (2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV)

God's chosen people could not believe he would allow such destruction to his people, to Jerusalem, and to his magnificent temple. But God's love would not allow them to continue in a way that was destroying them. So God brought on those who rebelled against his loving care all the discipline he had promised.

For me, 9/11 was God's warning to us as a nation. Oh, yes, we ran to the churches and to a God many did not really know, asking him to save us, protect us, but for what purpose? What I saw come out of that day of regret and mourning was a proud defiance against those who had attacked us. We would rebuild, make magnificent monuments to proclaim our power, and we would find those who had dared to attack us and make them pay.

My thoughts go to the words of Jesus as he reminds his followers, "*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me, and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing*". (John 15:5) We can't control our borders, crime in our cities, rampant sexual destruction, a political system destroying itself...have we, like Israel, forgotten that our very existence as a nation depends on God's grace?

Trunk or Treat....Coming October 29th from 4-5:30 Volunteers needed to help organize this event. Please see Alice/Jim Trusley to help. Bring your car trunk packed with goodies for the kids...More information coming. Mark your calendars!

Faith Community Nursing...Karen Kline

When I was five years old my maternal grandmother died from breast cancer. At the time we lived about two hours from my grandparents and at a certain point my mother stayed "in the city" caring for her mother. On weekends my father and I would go to be with family. I have memories of my grandmother lying in a hospital bed in the dining room of their home. Because the cancer had spread to her bones, she was in a full body cast to help prevent spontaneous fractures and minimize pain.

I always wondered as I got older why she didn't get routine mammograms. The simple reason; they were not available at the time! In 1949 and 1950 there were several studies done pioneering the interest in mammography. Raul Leborgne brought attention to the need for technical positioning and radiologic parameters to be used. He was a forerunner in the enhancement of imaging quality as well as emphasizing the diagnosis of benign and malignant abnormalities.

In the late 60's mammography units were developed for testing and the subsequent development of digital mammography became a priority... we now accept them as pretty much routine. Digital imaging not only produces clearer images, but allows for adjusting the image for greater detail. The process is faster and has less discomfort for the patient.

Amazing what God has given us with the ability of man to conceive and develop such advanced methods of cancer detection and the ability to treat and possibly cure early breast cancers!

Have you had your mammography this year? October is breast cancer awareness month. What are you waiting for? Karen can be reached at 352-634-1781 or karen@gracemethodistchurch.org with any questions you might have.

Conscience or the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)...You Decide...Alice Trusley

When we do something that we think "is wrong", and we hear that small voice chastise us, is that our conscience or the Holy Spirit talking to us? Or are they the same? Let me tell you a short story, and you can decide if it was my conscience or the Holy Spirit talking to me.

Most stores have signs posted, "if u break it, u buy it". Well, let me tell you what happened to me. I was perusing boxes of Christmas ornaments and knocked a box of ornaments off the shelf and four of the eight ornaments broke...oh no! I looked around to see if anyone saw me and looked for that sign which I didn't see. Ok I'm safe. I don't have to worry about paying for the ones I broke. I started to put the box back on the shelf with the other boxes and hiding the broken ones. Then, to my surprise, I heard that small voice..."don't do that. You need to pay for the ones you broke."

Now was that my conscience or the Holy Spirit talking to me? I honestly don't know. To make a long story a little shorter, I took the broken box of ornaments to the register along with my other purchases. I told the clerk at the register what happened and offered to pay for the broken ones; and she said, "don't worry, that happens all the time." I must admit that I felt much better because I had done what that small voice told me to do. You tell me, was it my conscience, the Holy Spirit, or are they the same?

S.O.S. Sharing Our Savior...Pastor Bill

I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Matthew 25:36

'From time-to-time members and friends of Grace Methodist Church will be confronted by difficult times. Challenges that stretch their financial capabilities and even their physical and mental capabilities. That is when the church needs to be the church. The church may need to share some financial means, some help with a project, or someone to talk with about a situation.

A program that has worked in my ministry is to simply Share our Savior's Love. We allow people to contribute in a couple of ways. Financially of course, but more importantly by confidentially sharing that a friend or church member has a need. The pastor or congregation member confirm the need and proper care is administered.

This project is funded when a need is recognized, and people decide to help out. All givers and receivers are completely anonymous except for those directly involved. Any time aid is given it is suggested that when you get back on your feet, restored, please consider giving back for the next person who has a need.

I believe there is a need right now and so I am asking for some help to get this project started. Please consider a compassionate gift. To get this project off and running. All money is to be given to the church directly. Mark your envelope S.O.S. and the amount you want to share.

Samaritan's Purse...School Construction Leads to New Believers

...Donna Farmer

In many areas of the world, communities long to educate their children, but they have no place for them to gather to learn. Samaritan's Purse is investing in young minds and earning a hearing for the Gospel by constructing quality schools that can last for generations.

Since 2007, we have built 46 schools in Cambodia and many others in vulnerable communities in Burkina Faso, Vietnam, and South Sudan. As we build schools, we partner with local churches who are faithfully sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with local residents. For instance, every teacher in one new school in Cambodia has now become a believer and so are 30 students. Praise God!

Please prayerfully consider partnering with us to construct even more quality schools so that future generations will have safe environments for learning and growing—and most importantly, an opportunity to hear about God's love for them.

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.....Ephesians 2:22(ESV)

A Little Light Humor....Donna Farmer

A pastor asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

A Little Light Humor...continued

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going. The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned. Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today. Stay strong, my friends, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is going to come when HE is done with it. AMEN!

Dates to Save

- October 7 – Family Fun Fall Festival
- October 11 – GMC Board Meeting @ 9:00 am
- October 12 – WOW @ 2:00 pm
- October 29 – 4-5:30 Trunk or Treat (being developed)
- November 5 – Communion Sunday
- November 5 – Daylight Savings Begins
- November 23 – Thanksgiving Day

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

- 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 5:00 pm Choir Practice led by Katherine Cornellius
- Thurs 10:00 am S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer)...Jan Wise
- Thurs 11:30 am 1:30 pm Women's Lunch Bunch Bible Study led by Sharon Miller
 - **Note....** Women of Worship (WOW)...Meets once a month on the second Thursday...**Next meeting is October 12 @ 2:00 p.m.**
- Fri 10:00 am Bible Study led by Jan Wise (10:00-11 Prayer concerns, joys, & fellowship)
- Fri 11am -12 pm Bible Study...led by Jan Wise
- Fri 10:15 am Bible study led by Pastor Farmer, Meadow Crest Clubhouse

Testimony Corner and/or articles for future newsletters...please send to Alice Trusley @ atrusley@pantherbranch.com

Grace Methodist Church is a member of the

