



Grace 2 U Newsletter

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Recently I attended my 40 year class reunion hosted by my high school. When I remember being a student there, I realize it didn't occur to me in those days that someday I would be 40 years removed from my graduation ceremony. The idea of looking that far into the future wasn't something that ever crossed my mind. If ever there was a teenager who lived only in the moment, that was me. Career, marriage, family, all the things that we might associate with growing into adulthood were not really on my radar. The only thing that seemed certain to me at that time was that I wanted to be involved in Christian ministry in some capacity.

While many things have changed for me in the previous four decades, one constant has remained: my call to ministry. Things haven't always gone smoothly; some choices have worked out better than others; some mistakes were made along the way. But overall, God has remained faithful and true, graciously leading, protecting, and providing while I stumbled through my preparation for and participation in professional Christian ministry.

I feel blessed to have been called to a profession that still feels meaningful and relevant to me. I am honored to have been given the ability to participate in this calling with faithfulness and endurance. And I am remarkably grateful for this congregation who worships, serves, and grows alongside me as we seek to be faithful and obedient followers of Christ.

Forty years ago, I may have not been able to imagine what life for me would be like in 2024. I may not have been able to foresee all the joys, challenges, blessings, and changes you and I have been through at Grace in these last 12 years together. Yet the constant that remains is God’s love, provision, protection, and guidance. Thank you for joining me on this kingdom journey. You have been a source of growth and comfort as you have helped me along my way through your friendship, your obedience to God, and your empowerment by the Holy Spirit.

I am grateful for you and the blessing you have been in my life. I’m looking greatly forward to a bright future for Grace Presbyterian and I am happy we are traveling this journey together.

Grace to you.

David



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

The administrative team, with the great assistance of our church Treasurer Bill Keller, devised a plan in March to start a campaign to pay off the church mortgage. Due to our wonderful and generous members, that was accomplished in May. We now have no mortgage payment to make each month. Thanks to all.

The admin team is starting the process of replacing most of the doors in the church. These new doors will be steel and have crash bars which offer added safety in an emergency.

Grace Presbyterian Church		
Financial Position		
As of May 2024		
	Month to Date	Year to Date
Operating Revenues(1)(2)		
Pledged/Unpledged	36,548	128,960
Other	420	8,701
Total	36,967	137,661
Expenses (1)	22,147	108,555
Net	14,821	29,105
Cash/Savings		
General		83,298
Designated/Restricted		49,855
Total		136,559
Mortgage Balance		0.00
(1) Does not include amounts for mortgage reduction		
(2) Includes pre-paid pledges		

Peace,
Joe Fortune
Administrative Elder



DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

For this month’s Discipleship article, I’m sharing an excerpt from Questions That Matter, a podcast of the C.S. Lewis Institute. This episode is titled: Discipleship in the Local Church. You can read/listen to the whole podcast (about 40 minutes) at <https://tinyurl.com/unrbbwcr>

On this podcast, we’re all about discipleship. What does it mean to grow in depth in our walk with the Lord? And for some of that, it's helpful

for us to have some good vocabulary, good theology. So what light can you shed on that word or that teaching in the New Testament?

...The word simply refers to a learner. Jesus talks about a student, a disciple is not greater than his teacher. So, there's this learner. ... So, there's an intellectual side, but it's much more of someone who comes alongside, almost like an apprentice. So, there's that relationship. A disciple attaches themselves to a master to learn not just intellectually, but also morally and by example and all of that, so that's sort of what the word disciple meant in its New Testament context. And what I think is important is that the word disciple is simply another way of describing a Christian.

There are a few people who say, "Well, you know, the word discipleship doesn't even appear in the Bible."

Well, I've heard someone else say that there are a lot of other English words that don't appear in the Bible, too. Well, I think the notion of discipleship is very central in the Bible, particularly in the Gospels. And I would start with the Great Commission, "Go and make disciples of all nations." ...

So, a disciple is .. sometimes associated with a particular training program. ... is associated with a kind of next stage in your Christian life. You come to believe in Jesus as your Savior. He saved you from your sins. And then at some later stage you decide to become a disciple. Discipleship becomes Christianity 2.0. It becomes a kind of elite view of the Christian life. It's for those who are really serious about being Christians. And that's not the biblical perspective at all. Every Christian is to be a disciple. One who is a learner from Jesus, one who is growing to become like Him.

Any final thoughts about this topic, this very, very important central topic of discipleship?

... discipleship is not simply, "Oh, I got to work hard to be better." It's not just this human effort to improve yourself. It's not just about me and a kind of self-improvement exercise. It begins with this faith commitment to Jesus. Jesus says He reaches out to us, He calls us to himself, and He says, "Come, follow Me." And that's where Discipleship begins, with that response of faith to Jesus. And in the Gospels, you see it is that union with Jesus out of which everything else flows. And that's why I think, in the Great Commission, Jesus speaks of it as He does. He says, "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, and then teaching them to obey all that I've commanded you." This baptism is about union. You come. As a disciple, you're in union with Him, you're in union with his people. That's what baptism speaks of in a visible way.

And out of that, you come to learn and grow and mature and change and be transformed. So, I think discipleship, we're talking about the big picture. You have to include that, this gospel of grace, which is always the beginning point, which you never get away from, when you think about Discipleship.

Peace,

Church



GRACE NOTES

Ah, the joys of a slower pace. This is why I look forward to summer, the chance to find some time to relax and recharge. I hope to do both and hope you do too.

It's also a season of goodbyes and good luck. Two of our interns, Jacey Hudson and Chris Yarbrough, will be moving on to their respective colleges this fall, while Sydney Godbey will remain as a college intern this fall as she attends UNG. We will also say goodbye to Margaret Lassen as she will be moving to Augusta later in June to be closer to family. We wish them all well in their new endeavors and hope to see them in the loft again sometime in the future.

You will still see us in the loft throughout June, and then the choir will take a little break during the month of July. We will meet again for our first fall rehearsal on Wednesday, August 7th at 7pm. If you've never given the choir a try, we encourage you to come out and join us! No experience needed, just a desire to sing 🎵. We also hope to start up our handbell choir again this fall and we welcome all ages to join us for this fun group (more details to come soon).

I hope you can take time this summer to enjoy the blessings our generous Lord has placed in your lives. As always, thank you for your generous support of the music ministry at Grace!

Grace2U, Gene

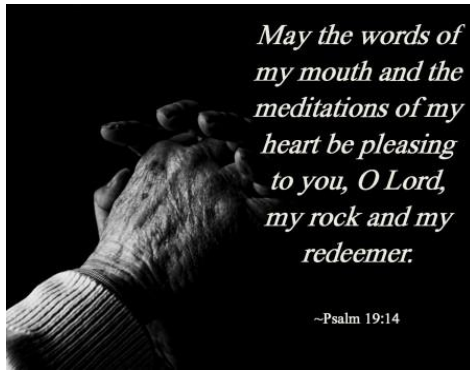


The Ladies of Grace enjoyed an April luncheon at Applebee's hosted by Priscilla Taylor and Jane Miller. In May, we traveled to Big Canoe to the lovely home of Sara and Chuck Achuff. There we were treated to a delicious brunch prepared by Sara, Margie O'Byrne, and Joyce Ball. We enjoyed amazing food while we viewed the beautiful mountains and shared delightful conversations.

We are taking a break from our luncheons for the summer, but please mark your calendar for our September 17th luncheon hosted by Bettie Fore, Karen Davenport, and Joan Palazzolo. All Ladies of Grace are encouraged to attend our luncheons on the third Tuesday of each month.

Blessings,

Peggy Thornton



In Our Prayers: John and Susan Adams (Marsha Loftin), Connie Alford (Shirley), Frank Ball, Ruth Ann Ball, Baron Barnes (Mary Ann Sheehy), Bill and Sandy (Dan Scott), Gretchen Blackwell, Family of Richard Bruce (Richard Smith), Tyler Chadwick, Lisa Conn, Susan Davis (Joe), Frank Duke (Kay Parrish), Mike Eason (Joey), Lisa France (Margie), Grace (Chuck), Kevin Herrit and Family, Clara, Hogan (Shirley), Margaret Hunt (Jim Hambright), Irena (Gretchen Blackwell), Rylee Johnson (Jaycey), Doug Jones (Margie O'Byrne), Cynthia Kodua, Shelby Lee, Martha's Family (Dan Scott), Penny McDaniel (Kay), Ellen Nordstrom (Margie), Frank Parrish (Kay), Pat (Ruth Ann Ball), Brenda Reagans (Kristie), Mary Ann Sheehy's Grandson, Nancy Smiley (Ruth Ann Ball), Lynette Steritz, Susan (Ruth Ann Ball), Theresa (Chris Seese), Viviana Torres, Carol Watkins, Bill and Sherry Weeks

Assisted Living: Sandy Grimes, Zoe Putnam

USHER /LITURGIST SCHEDULE

Liturgists:

July

- 7/7 Joyce ball
7/14 Kristie Homans
7/21 Christy Jordan
7/28 Margie O'Byrne

Ushers:

July

Bill & Joann Keller, Betty Powell
Jim Hambright, Margie O'Byrne, Marsha Loftin
Joey & Kristie Homans, Priscilla Taylor
Joyce Ball, Elaine Coker, Nancy McCue

Liturgists:

August

- 8/4 Chris Seese
8/11 Joey Homans
8/18 Katie Schumacher
8/25 Grace Walden

Ushers:

August

Marsha Loftin, Betty Powell, Barbara Quintrell
Joann Keller, Dan & Jane Miller
Susan Atkins, Gordon & Jeannette Brand
Kristie Homans, Mike & Joyce Ball

Liturgists:

September

- 9/1 Christy Jordan
9/8 Logan Collins
9/15 Susan Atkins
9/22 Peggy Thornton
9/29 Andrew Permenter

Ushers:

September

Dan & Jane Miller, Barbara Quintrell, Bob & Peggy Thornton
Ron & Elaine Coker, Marsha Loftin
Jerry & Susan Atkins, Bob Thornton
Nancy McCue, Margie O'Byrne, Peggy Thornton



July Birthdays

- 2nd– Roberta Coleman
- 3rd – Daniel Manke
- 7th – Sandy Grimes
- 10th – Rev. David Jordan
- 12th – Barbara Quintrell
- 14th – Bettie Fore
- 17th – Randy Davis
- 23rd – Winfred Kelley
- 23rd – Michael Putnam
- 24th – Christy Jordan
- 29th – Karan Winters
- 30th – Nancy King

August Birthdays

- 3rd – Andy Clemons
- 4th –Jeannette Brand
- 8th – Sam McDuffie
- 11th –Joey Homans
- 16th – Abigail Herrit
- 17th – Ryan McDuffie
- 17th – Betty Banks
- 20th– Leigha Rainey
- 24th– Sherry Weeks
- 28th– David Muir

September Birthdays

- 1st – Gault Robertson
- 4th – Foster Kinney
- 6th – Grace Walden
- 8th – Grayson McDuffie
- 13th – Doris Greijack
- 14th– Frank Banks
- 19th – Betty Powell
- 19th – Jeanne Tompkins
- 20th – Martha Shaw
- 20th – Reagan Parrish
- 30th – Joann Keller



July

- 11th – Lynette & Nathan Steritz
- 16th – Barbara & Randy Crouse
- 25th – Ryan & Sam McDuffie

August

- 1st– Nancy & Warren King
- 3rd – Peggy & Bob Thornton
- 7th – Betty & Frank Banks
- 8th – Shirley & Dan Schmelzinger
- 10th – Chris & Gene Seese

September

- 8th – Jane & Daniel Miller

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 28:** *Blessing of the Backpacks*
- September 8:** *Congregational Meeting*
- September 17:** *Ladies Luncheon*
- September 29:** *Church Picnic at Veteran’s Memorial Park*