



Grace 2 U Newsletter

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One of the sweetest surprises in the daily life of the average person has to be the “upgrade.” You know the one I mean: the unanticipated joy that comes from receiving more than we expected. It happens when you’re minding your own business, settling as comfortably as possible into the routine or situation that you have chosen and perhaps even paid for, when suddenly you discover your position has improved without warning. Through no extra effort of your own, you have now been given the opportunity to move to the front of the line, or receive the benefits of a higher category of membership, or even bump up into First Class!

We are experiencing grace in those moments, whether we realize it or not. Unmerited favor can feel somewhat foreign to the human experience, accustomed as we are to earning the blessings that come our way- either through hard work, right behavior, or paying a price. We may even find ourselves reluctant at times to accept a gift like this, afraid that it may cause us to appear needy, or incapable of managing our own achievements.

This concept of grace is at the heart of the Christian experience. There is nothing we could ever do to cause God to love us any more than God already does. There is also nothing we could ever do to earn the gift of salvation, forgiveness, and reconciliation in Jesus Christ. And there is literally no way that we could ever provide for ourselves eternal life in the Kingdom of God through our own efforts, conduct, or fortune. What a blessing we have been given! And what a challenge as well, as we are so prone to want to believe we can earn all the good things that come our way through grit and determination.

Last week my wife and I attended a Sylvan Esso concert at the Coca-Cola Roxy Concert Hall in Atlanta. Our reserved seats were on the next-to-last row, but in a medium-sized venue, we could still see well enough to enjoy the show. To our surprise and disappointment, as soon as the band began playing, everyone in front of us stood up, obscuring our view unless we stood up with them. I am well-past “standing for an entire concert” age, so I bought these tickets in this location to avoid all the young-legged stander-uppers closer to the stage. We immediately moved to the back row at the end of the aisle, behind a column that nearly blocked the view, and found a small gap we could look through and attempt to enjoy the performance while seated. A couple of songs in, a staff member came all the way to the back, sat down beside us, and invited us to follow him downstairs to an unsold box seat with a perfectly clear view of the entire stage. We did, and we then enjoyed the show immensely, and were able to remain comfortably seated for the remainder of the performance (important for those knocking on the door of their senior years).

We probably would have enjoyed the concert in our inexpensive paid seats, but we will never forget the experience of being given the best seats in the house, totally by surprise. We’ve been glowing from that memory for days. That’s what grace can do for us: inspire joy and gratitude for the unearned favor and blessings that come our way. When we disciples of Christ notice and remember the ways that God showers such love, forgiveness, and blessings on our lives, we cannot help but react with gratitude. May your experience of God’s grace inspire you to respond with gratitude and

a heartfelt desire to share that experience of grace with each other.

As we love to say,

Grace to you-

David



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Financials: Grace Presbyterian continues to be in good financial shape due to the generosity of our members. Details are always available to congregation by contacting our treasurer, Bill Keller.

Your session is in the process of preparing a budget for 2022 and seeks your thoughts and prayers as we try to do normal things again.

Buildings: We have been working on converting a room downstairs to a library. Thanks to numerous folks who gave us furniture and rugs, especially to Mary Ann Sheehy. Kudos to David Jordan, Christy Jordan, and Joann Keller for painting the walls and furniture.

Security: We have a security team led by Ron Coker that is always aware of any security

situations and monitoring the facilities as necessary.

Joe Fortune



EVANGELISM / MISSION TEAM

The Presbyterian Online Giving Catalog project was a great success. Thank you all for your generosity. Your gifts provided help and relief to communities in need.

Mary Ann Sheehy



SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Greetings Grace Family! You will be happy to know that Joey and I are on track to finish our "Read Through the Bible in a Year" in an expeditious 24 months! The best news about that is that we will get a second look at all that David has taught us this month about the book of James.

Social Justice during covid has been a challenge. About the time we got geared up again, the resurgence of the virus once again, shut us down. NOA is back to online meetings and The Rainbow Children's Home has scaled back their residents. Once again, we will take "Holiday Bags" to the residents at North Georgia Assisted

Living in Dawsonville. Be sure to watch the announcements for times and dates.

The Good Shepherd Clinic is hosting its 2nd Annual Scarecrow 'Fest. Watch for the Scarecrows to go up around the community. The schools have been especially supportive, and their entries look awesome! If any of you would like to help with this project, please reach out to me for opportunity information.

You are a giving and faithful church. Personally, I want you to know how much I appreciate your support and kind words while the Church Session has had to make tough decisions. Taking into consideration all the opinions, science, and points of views, we worked together and have always had each of you at the center of our final votes. While it hasn't always been a comfortable situation, we are fortunate to have David shepherd a faithful group of elders through uncharted territory with benevolence and deference. I consider it a true honor to be a part of such a "faith-filled" group of people.

May the Grace and Peace of our Redeemer keep you comforted now and always.

Kristie Myers



WORSHIP TEAM

Grace to you from the Worship Team!

The Worship Team is busy getting ready for the upcoming Kirking of the Tartans! The bagpiper has been confirmed and will be practicing

somewhere near Pastor David's office. Gene is lining up special music and musicians for us. We are searching for volunteers to be Acolytes on November 21st.

Speaking of volunteers, if anyone is interested in becoming an usher or liturgist, please let Pastor David know after one of the services. If any member of the congregation is interested in joining the choir, please see Gene after service. Gene is the Choir Director. This is a hard-working, dedicated, and playful group of members that love to bring the word of God to life through music.

A special thank you to our newest interns:

High School Interns:

JR Banitt

Anna Grace Martin

Sarah Hickman

Part time pianist (and occasional tenor) -

Hannah Stocksdales

Assistant Director - Katie Schumacher

Finally, I would like to thank Crystal Seymour who does so much for the Worship Team and keeps me out of trouble with reminders and accurate information.

God Bless!

Mark Hageli



GRACE NOTES

Choir is back and in full swing again. We have moved our rehearsal time from Wednesday

nights to Sunday mornings at 9am and everyone is welcome to come out and give us a try, there's plenty of room in the choir loft ☺.

We also have many new faces in the loft and behind the piano this year. **JR Banitt** (Baritone), **Sarah Hickman** (Soprano) and **Anna Grace Martin** (Alto) are our new interns! All three are juniors at North Forsyth High School and active in the choral, drama and band programs there.

We are also excited to welcome **Hannah Stocksdales** as our part time accompanist and

occasional tenor in the choir (and flute player). Hannah is a senior at NFHS and is splitting time with Donna Bailey. Her mother Kim will also join us occasionally as accompanist on the keyboard and strings.

Finally, we want to welcome **Katie Schumacher** to the choir as our new Assistant Director. Katie is an alumni of the NFHS Choral Program and graduated this past spring from UGA (GO DAWGS!) with a BA in Music Education. She accepted her first teaching position this fall as music teacher at Daves Creek Elementary School in Forsyth County. Katie is a Mezzo Soprano and will be gracing us with her wonderful vocal talents in the near the future.

If you have not already, please take a moment to welcome these wonderful additions to music at Grace. Their time and talents are such a blessing to us, and your gifts make it possible for us to offer these opportunities to talented musicians. If you would like to offer your own musical talents, please consider joining us on Sunday mornings. If you have instrumental gifts, we always have a need for special music throughout the year. Please see me if you are interested in performing. If you love music and want to support our program, please see me or Mark Hageli to find out how your gifts can help

us support and expand our music outreach. Thank you so much for your continued support of music at Grace.

Finally, on a personal note, Chris and I wish to thank every one of you who came out for our 25th Wedding Anniversary renewal ceremony on July 31st. It was a wonderful day to celebrate with family and friends. I also wish to express my gratitude for your support during this time of my mother's passing, who went to be with the Lord on September 20th. Your continued prayers and compassion are immeasurable to me and my family during these difficult days.

"One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all

the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock." Psalm 27:4-5 We are truly blessed to be a part of the Grace family.

Grace2U,

Gene

From Left to Right:

Back Row: JR Banitt & Hannah Stocksdale

Front Row: Katie Schumacher, Sarah Hickman & Anna Grace Martin





It was a stormy, rainy August Tuesday but that didn't hinder the Ladies of Grace from enjoying a delightful potluck luncheon. It was wonderful sharing stories with one another and getting to know a new church member. We decided to continue with potluck luncheons for the remainder of 2021. Our luncheons are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:15 in the church fellowship hall. The dates for the next two luncheons are October 19th and November 16th. I hope you will be able to join us. For more information contact Peggy Thornton at 478-396-5052 or peggythor1@gmail.com. Blessings,
Peggy Thornton



In Our Prayers: Osvaldo Alonso (Suehelen White), Francis and Ruth Ann Ball, the family of Paige Berrigan (Joe Fortune), Michelle Blair, Susan Bruno (Jo West), Lee Bueno, Chase Busby, Bill Cain, Linda Castellaw (Marsha Loftin), Linda Clemons, Elaine Coker, Tom Cole (Dan Scott), Collins family, the family of Sam Cooke (Lauren Collins), Jeff Coombs (Bill and

Joann Keller), Patricia Crain (Francis and Ruth Ann Ball), Jan & David (Chris Seese), Debbie, Jason Delasota (Bob Thornton), Katy Dennis, Arlene Devience (the Hageli family), Grandma Dot (Shirley Hawkins), Frank Duke (Kay Parrish), Amanda Edwards (Grace Walden), Rachel Lynn Foster, Bill Gear (Hanne Gear), John and Sandy Grimes, Amy Gibson's Family, Paula Harris, Jen Hill (Marsha Loftin), Doug Jones (Margie's brother), Winfred Kelley, Lamar (Richard Smith), Shelby Lee, Jason Leonard, Rhonda Lindquist, the family of Nancy McNeill, Jordan Permenter, Chuck & Diane Piatt, Harvey Rainey (Husband of Rebecca Rainey), Dan Scott, Caroline Seese, Norm Shafer (Nancy McCue), Gail Smith (Margie O'Byrne), Sawyer Smith (Sandra Grimes), Nancy Stamp (niece of Grace Walden), Emily Steinemetz (Granddaughter of Hanne Gear), Brad Taylor, Glo Thompson (Paula Harris), infant James Henry Trim (Marsha Loftin), Sam and Judy Wadsworth, Curran Watters (Joe Fortune), Suehelen White and her in-laws, Wyatt, pray for those with the Coronavirus and those who care for them, the Volunteers of Good Shepherd Clinic who are still serving the citizens in need by providing a healthcare home during this Pandemic .

Assisted Living: Marian Hopkins, Zoe Putnam, Betty Rhodes

Nursing Home/Rehab: Carol Ann Groebner, Howard Halteman

Sympathy: The family Louise Kelly, the family of Vic Wallace

FOOD pantry

Grace Presbyterian is scheduled to serve at the Ric Rack food pantry from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following dates this quarter:

- November 1, 3, & 5
- December 13, 15, & 17

Please email gp2@trailwave.net if you would like to volunteer. The food pantry is still accepting donations, the store is located at 829 Hwy 9N, Dawsonville, GA 30534.



November 21: Church-wide Thanksgiving meal, Church Anniversary, and Kirking of the Tartans

November 28: Hanging of the Green Service

December 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m.

USHER/GREETER/LITURGIST SCHEDULE



If you are interested in serving as a liturgist or usher, please email Crystal at gp2@trailwave.net and I'll add you to the schedule.

Liturgists:

October

10/3	<u>Communion Servers:</u> Jim Hambright, Margie O'Byrne, Marsha Loftin, and Betty Powell
10/3	Chris Seese
10/10	Grace Walden
10/17	Joey Homans
10/24	Peggy Thornton
10/31	Kristie Homans

Ushers:

October

Dan & Jane Miller
Bob & Peggy Thornton
Gordon & Jeannette Brand
Ron & Elaine Coker
Nancy McCue & Betty Powell

Liturgists:

November

11/7	<u>Communion Servers:</u> Andy and Linda Clemons, Bonnie Fry, Mary Ann Sheehy
11/7	Bob Thornton
11/14	Margie O'Byrne
11/21	Christy Jordan
11/28	Joyce Ball

Ushers:

November

Jim Hambright & Margie O'Byrne
Bill & Joann Keller
Bob & Peggy Thornton
Mike & Joyce Ball

Liturgists:

December

12/5	<u>Communion Servers:</u> Gordon and Jeannette Brand, Daniel and Jane Miller
12/5	Chris Seese
12/12	Joey Homans
12/19	Joyce Ball
12/26	Grace Walden

Ushers:

December

Joey & Kristie Homans
Marsha Loftin & Betty Powell
Gordon & Jeannette Brand
Ron & Elaine Coker



October Birthdays

- 3rd – Davida Simpson
 4th – Jerry Atkins
 5th – Dana Loring
 7th – Peggy Thornton
 10th – Zoe Putnam
 17th – Shirley Hawkins
 22nd – T.J. Hageli
 23rd – Ruth Ann Ball
 24th – Hanne Gear
 27th – Cora Simpson

November Birthdays

- 3rd – Jane Joh
 4th – Kristie Homans
 10th – Bonnie Fry
 10th – Howard Halteman
 14th – Sawyer McDuffie
 16th – Jarrett Simpson
 16th – Sam Wadsworth
 17th – Paula Harris
 18th – Carol Ann Groebner
 19th – Bob Thornton
 21st – River Parrish
 23rd – Dick McNeill
 23rd – Paula Halteman
 26th – Shannon Hageli

December Birthdays

- 1st – Elaine Coker
 8th – Susan Atkins
 10th – Shelby Lee
 17th – Roy Blackwell
 19th – Janie Tinsley
 19th – Margaret Honn
 22nd – Gordon Brand
 25th – Francis Ball
 27th – Sarah Logan
 30th – Carol Watkins
 31st – Samuel Loring



November

*16th -
 Ruth Ann & Francis Ball*

*27th -
 Susan & Jerry Atkins*

December

*16th -
 Joyce & Mike Ball*

*29th -
 Ann & Roy Riggs*