

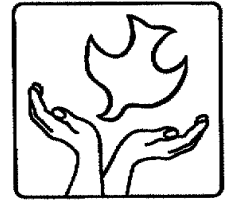
Grace HAPPENINGS

the newsletter of

Grace Mission Episcopal Church

...a transformative ministry of the forgotten

August 2014



Words of Grace

The Rev. Amanda Nickles, Vicar

Dear Ministry Partners:

Scripture reminds us "To everything there is a season." A new season is around the corner for Grace Mission. With sadness of heart both Deacon Jeanie and Pastor Mike will be leaving us shortly. But I have been thankful for their constant contributions, devotion, and commitment to Grace Mission for the time they have been here. They have been faithful servants and we can say, along with Jesus, well done! They will be missed and we pray blessings on their new ministries. On that note, we will be welcoming David Tremaine. He is a seminarian who will be with us for one year completing an internship.

To everything there is a season and the new season for the Children's Program is a new partnership with Tallahassee Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Affairs. The Grace Mission After-School program will be held at the LeVerne Payne Community Center. Elizabeth, our Children's Director, has built wonderful relationships with the parents and children at Springfield Apartments (aka Joe Louis) and we will continue to develop those relationships but at a new location. We look forward to this new and wonderful partnership. We are also building a relationship with the FSU Lutheran University Chapel. They have been kind and gracious to us by opening up their chapel space for our Children's Christian Education program on Thursday nights.

To everything there is a season and the new season for Tuesday Night is a 12-step (AA) Worship or 12-Steps@4:30. 12-Step Spirituality is the combined knowledge and experience of all those who have used spiritual surrender and the 12 Steps as a passage to recovery. Through the 12 Steps and Worship we look to share what we have learned, as well as celebrate the presence of God in our midst.

To everything there is a season and we are reminded there is a season to embrace. As this new season is upon Grace Mission we are embracing this season with new expectations and joy in our hearts as part of this amazing journey of Grace we take each day. Thank you for your continued support, prayers and encouragement. We hope to see everyone at the Fundraising Gala on September 27th!

Blessings,
Pastor Amanda+

Children's Summer Program

Elizabeth Crowe, Grace Children's Ministries

Last July we began working with the wonderful children who live in Springfield Apartments, aka Joe Louis. We've built relationships with them and their families and are glad to be on this journey with them. This summer was the culmination of our first year together, with children laughing, playing and learning with the help of you, our Christian community.

In June 10 of our youngest ones went to St. John's Workshop of Wonders Vacation Bible School (VBS). What a great way for them to start the summer, wrapped in God's love! They sang, did crafts, learned about God, and saw God at work in their hearts, leaders, and activities. They were excited to have been chosen to attend, and loved the special attention they had for a whole week! We provided breakfast and sack lunches for them, and they truly felt wrapped in God's love from start to finish of the day.

The following week 16 older children left for Camp St. Michael at Camp Weed. But before the bus leaves, much takes place to make this extraordinary experience happen. There are the donations of clothes, pillows, towels, and money from you. There's the planning by the Camp Weed staff. There are prayers offered by you for their health/safety, and volunteers help us get things ready. Before leaving, the children painted night-shirts (men's T's), labeled clothes with names, made luggage tags, and packed their things in a pillowcase. On Sunday, June 29, they came to church with their families to be blessed for this adventure, and we left at 6am the next day. After a picnic breakfast at the rest stop near Live Oak, they arrived at camp to begin this new adventure of kayaking, rock wall climbing, and living in a cabin in the woods.

A week after returning from camp, the VBS and camp children were in our two-week Reading Academy designed to refresh their reading skills prior to returning to school. We picked them up, had lunch at Grace Mission, then bussed them to St John's where we were blessed to use their Sunday School rooms for the Academy. These 24 children were divided into reading groups and rotated through four activity centers: readers' circle, readers' theater, activity/arts & crafts, and move and groove. In readers' circles they read and discussed the stories and continued discussions in the arts & crafts center where activities were based on the theme of the books.

(continued)



Grace Happens - Come and See!

Corner of Brevard and Bronough + P.O. Box 10472, Tallahassee, FL 32302

www.gracemission.net



From the Deacon's Desk

Deacon Jeanie Beyer

Many of you may have already heard that August 31st will be my last day at Grace Mission. Deacons have a unique relationship with the Bishop. Deacons are sent to a congregation by the Bishop, whereas Priests are called to a congregation by a Vestry.

Bishop Howard has determined that my time of service at Grace Mission has come to an end and that he would like me to now function more fully out of my Archdeacon hat. My new duties will include accompanying the Bishop on his visitations, being more involved with the leadership of the Diocesan Regions, doing some special projects for him and continuing my ministry with the Deacon Community and all future deacons.

I have enjoyed my almost seven years at Grace Mission and working and growing with each of you. It has been a gift to me to serve with you. Thank you for all that you do and will continue doing at Grace Mission.

*Blessings,
Deacon Jeanie*

2014 Evening of Grace - September 27th!

The 5th Annual Evening of Grace will take place on Saturday, September 27th from 5:30 until 10:00 pm at the FSU Alumni Center (1030 West Tennessee Street.) This year's event, "**Growing in Grace...Harvesting Love**" will be a "locally grown" celebration of Grace Mission and their community of supporters, from renown musical artists, to locally grown foods and crafted beers, dinner from Andrew's, and a fantastic Silent Auction! Musical guests include:

- ◆ Michael McCallie
- ◆ Therese Whichello
- ◆ Chris Seepersaud
- ◆ The Sarah Mac Band!

Tickets are \$100 each. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 224-3817 or email: jbblalock@comcast.net.

Children's Program *(continued from page 1)*

For example, when the 2nd grade boys read The Diary of A Worm they built a worm habitat complete with live worms then wrote their own diaries. At the end of the Academy children got to take all their books home and were encouraged to read them again before school starts. They are now ready to take AR tests on these books and get a start on AR reading points when school begins. They went on field trips to FAMU and FSU the end of each week. At FAMU they toured the museum, learned to write their names in hieroglyphics, and met with a professor in environmental sciences. They were amazed that the lecture hall did not have desks in a row like their classrooms. Impact of the trips? Some said they wanted to go to college when they grow up. Mission accomplished!

I blinked and summer is gone, school has started! Before I know it I'll blink again and angel trees will be up in the churches and another season will have arrived. Thank you for the gifts of your time, donations, and prayers and for joining us for all the seasons in this journey of grace.

From Pastor Mike

Rev. Mike Snider, Assisting Pastor

A dear friend of mine once told me that every day is a blessing from God. I think of my friend often. Particularly during the Prayers of the People when one of our members yells out that he is thankful! I count myself blessed to be allowed the opportunity to serve at Grace Mission. With each day, I grow more aware of the profound truth spoken by the Apostle Peter. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1Peter 1:3) Again and again the power of hope amazes me. I am awe struck by the power of believing in a brighter future. While our hot meals are definitely our signature ministry, the totality of Grace Mission is far more fundamental. In the turbulent waters of fear, doubt and disbelief, we stand strong as an oasis of hope.

I find myself reflecting on the nature of offering hope more and more as my time at Grace Mission draws to a close. Yet the many lessons I learned here will impact my ministry for years to come. Grace Mission will always hold a very special place in my heart and in my prayers.

I would like to say thank you to the many, many wonderful people who opened their hearts and minds to me. Your influence has made me a better man and a better priest. As a small sign of my gratitude I would like to share with you just a few of the lessons I learned at Grace Mission:

- ◆ When in doubt - count the chairs. As hard as I have tried, I never found a way to fit the 78 people sitting in the worship space into the 61 chairs in the dining room!
- ◆ When responding to a problem, resist the temptation to go it alone. Jesus had good reasons for sending his disciples into the mission field two by two.
- ◆ When it comes to responding to special requests, compassion requires a mixture of firmness and flexibility.
- ◆ God gives us one mouth that closes and two ears that stay open. Do not be afraid to draw up a chair and listen for a while whenever the need arises.
- ◆ We are only human. We cannot meet every need at the same time. It really is okay to ask someone to wait patiently. Just remember to be polite when you ask.
- ◆ Pray, pray, pray! And when you think you have prayed enough, pray some more.

As God calls me to serve in another section of the mission field, please remember how much Grace Mission is able to do because of your support. The staff at Grace Mission cannot do it without your support. Remember Grace Mission in your prayers. Remember Grace Mission in the allotment of your time. Remember Grace Mission with your financial support.

*In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
Pastor Mike+*



Grace Mission Episcopal Church
gracemission@nettally.com + 850/224-3817
www.gracemission.net

