

Words of Grace

The Rev. Amanda L. Nickles, Vicar

Dear Ministry Partners:

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

These past seven years, I often reflect and think about the many ways kindness has been extended to me by so many people. And not just to me but to this wonderful place we call Grace Mission. Kindness and hospitality has been a hallmark of this incredible place and I have been blessed to have received and witnessed such kindness, generosity, love and hospitality from so many wonderful volunteers, staff, board members and Grace Mission parishioners.

We are reminded in the book of Titus,

To be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people" (Titus 3:2).

Acts of courtesy are extremely meaningful and not in the least bit hypocritical. Words of "thank you" and "yes, please," letters of appreciation and RSVP responses are all services of courtesy. The purpose is always the same: to acknowledge others and affirm their worth.

As I celebrate my seven year anniversary at Grace Mission, I want to acknowledge, affirm and say, "Thank you" to all the wonderful people who have taught me so many things through their acts of kindness, hospitality, generosity and love. Your acts of courtesy haven't gone unnoticed, and I am humbled and blessed by your generous hearts and I am truly grateful! Thank you!

Faithfully,

Pastor Amanda+

P.S.

In other news, please welcome Chaniqua James, our new administrative assistant/volunteer coordinator. Chaniqua joined us on June 6, following the retirement of Delois Brown.

Also, Grace Mission has a beautiful new sign at the corner of Brevard and Bronough. Come by to see it!

A Summer of Water!

Elizabeth Crowe, Grace Children's Ministries

The rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there without giving water to the earth. This makes plants grow on the earth, and gives seeds to the planter and bread to the eater.

Isaiah 55:10 New Life Version (NLV)

What a wonderful blessing The Episcopal University Center at FSU and Fr. Brian have been to Grace Mission's children's program this past year! After having been in four locations over the previous three years it is comforting to have a more permanent home. Our FSU tutors loved the convenience, and parking was provided for our TCC, FAMU, retired and other folks who tutored. With the help and guidance of tutors, 44% of our children were on the A/B Honor Roll and three others missed it by a C in one subject on this last nine-week report card. It's exciting to see their progress, especially in reading and language arts. With the help of volunteers, they will continue to work on reading skills in this summer's Reading Academy.

Reading Academy –June 19-23, 10am – 5pm, at The Episcopal University Center

The theme for the Reading Academy is *Splish! Splash! Water Everywhere!* The children (rising grades 1 – 5) will rotate through hour-long activity centers and go on field trips to the Waste Water Treatment Plant and to Wakulla Springs. We need volunteers, especially to listen to or read to a child in Ariel's Reading Center where they will read books like *Did a Dinosaur Drink This Water?* and *Magic School Bus Wet All Over*. You can volunteer for any activity center (Ariel's Reading Center, Rain Forest Water Lab, Neptune's Cave Arts & Crafts, AquaLand Games) for an hour(s), a day(s) or a specific center. Our topics for the week are:

- * June 19: – The Water Cycle
- * June 20: –National Weather Service- How predict weather /Flood Simulation Model
- * June 21: – The Water Cycle -God's Perfect Plan (Godly Play in the Water Lab)
- * June 22: – Let's Clean It Up! – 3 PM field trip to Wastewater Treatment Facility
- * June 23: – The Florida Aquifer – all day field trip to Wakulla Springs

Please contact Elizabeth Crowe at elizcrowe@comcast.net or at 850 320-2233 to volunteer or for additional information.

Summer Camp at Camp Weed – July 5 –8

More water!! Twelve of our elementary school children qualified by good behavior to go to Camp Weed and will

Continued on back page

