



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH • HELP • HEALING • HOPE

Dear Ministry Partners;

After thoughtful prayer I thought it might be a good idea to share the mission and vision of Grace Mission. I have had these thoughts rattling around for some time and have been asked several times, 'Who are we?' (Grace Mission) so I want to articulate our mission and vision.

Jesus reminds us that the "*poor will always be among us*" and that captures the mission and vision of Grace Mission. As an incarnational ministry and a ministry of presence within the greater church and larger Tallahassee community we focus first on the Gospel. (NB – Let us take a step back and ponder what incarnation means, in the theological sense. Incarnation means to take on flesh, specifically God taking on human flesh in the manner of Jesus Christ to walk among and bring salvation to God's people. When thinking about incarnation at Grace Mission, this is done through walking close with God's people, the broken and misheard, the lost and lonely. In that walk we mirror the love God has for God's people as we treat them as Christ has treated us. We give flesh to Jesus word, "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" Incarnational ministry is also done without ego. It isn't done for a shiny prize. Incarnational ministry, as it is lived at Grace Mission, is done so that all people will know that God's first language is love and that love is given freely and generously.)

Although a cliché' sometimes the response to what we do and why we do it needs to be, '*What Would Jesus Do?*' Everything else is secondary to this mission and vision for Grace Mission. As we read in Acts 2 beginning in the 43 verse we see what life is like among the Lord's followers. In these passages we hear the message of fellowship, teaching, generosity, kindness, grace, sharing lives, with the primary focus on relationships and helping one another. As an integrated and diverse church, Grace Mission is an Acts 2 church. As the boundaries of societal life continues to get further separated by the 'have and have nots' it is more and more imperative as Christians to live into and through our Baptismal Covenant (*Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? BCP p.305*); to meet people at the margins of society and to step in the 'gap' if you will to help where needed. The mission and vision of Grace Mission is not a corporate model or even a traditional model of the church. It is an Incarnational Gospel model for Grace Mission. This incarnational model focuses on a holistic approach to help those in need (help and healing) while always praising God (hope). We are called to be Christ's Ambassadors to the world. And, of course we do this by embracing and helping others in the love of Christ.

In His Name,



Rev. Amanda L. Nickles+

303 W. Brevard Street Tallahassee, FL 32301 850-224-3817 www.gracemission.net

Grace Mission is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida
This institution is an equal opportunity provider