

GRACE HAPPENINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF

GRACE MISSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH HELP • HEALING • HOPE

PENTECOST 2018

*Saying Good-Bye to Elizabeth Crowe*

*The Rev. Amanda L. Nickles, Vicar*

Dear Ministry Partners:

James instructs Christians to live out their faith with their deeds: "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17). He was concerned that the church take care of the widows and orphans, and he wanted them to rely not on empty words, but to act on their faith with deeds of love.

One person I know exemplifies what James is instructing Christians to do - Elizabeth Crowe. She has been a faithful servant by living out her faith - not on empty words - but acting on her faith with deeds of love. We are saved by faith, not works, but we LIVE OUT our faith by loving others and caring for their needs. She has lovingly cared for the disenfranchised children who attend the Grace Mission 'SOAR' After-School program.

Around eight years ago, I met Elizabeth when I became the Vicar at Grace Mission. Elizabeth was the first person who showed me kindness and understood the stress and demands this position encompasses. Many nights we were the last two in the building finishing up one project or another. A fond memory I have of Elizabeth happened late one night in her office years ago. We were thinking (brain-storming) on how we could recruit more children for the After-School program. We came up with the idea (although I know the Holy Spirit had something to do with it) to begin focusing on Joe Louis, aka Springfield Apartments. This particular public housing subdivision is the largest in Tallahassee. It has the most families with children and it's within our 'mission zone.' Elizabeth jumped right in and began recruiting. We have been in Joe Louis ever since.

Elizabeth has been the anchor of the After School program, guiding and directing it into a top-notch private academic After School program -the largest in Leon County. She has made the necessary contacts to achieve success with the program and has personally seen that all children learn, do better in school, and achieve their own success. She has dried eyes, wiped noses, read, helped with homework, designed kid-friendly crafts for particular projects, always made sure kids were safe and got home safely, and well, this list could go on and on. Her passion and love for the Lord shows in every detail of her life. Her love for what she does and WHO she does it for spills over to the children, staff, volunteers and frankly, everyone she meets. She is beloved by everyone.

She will be deeply missed at Grace Mission when she closes her door for the last time on July 1st. We can only hope that we can "walk in the way of love" (Eph.5:2) as she has shown us through her life and actions. God-speed, Elizabeth. It has been a privilege and honor to serve alongside you!

From All of us at Grace Mission

Pastor Amanda+

If you would like to contribute to the Elizabeth Crowe retirement gift, please send a check to Grace Mission or pay through our website at [gracemission.net](http://gracemission.net) and use the PayPal link.

*I'm Still Here!*

*Elizabeth Crowe, Director of Children's Ministries*

In the last newsletter I wrote that I was retiring on May 1st ,but I'm still here! My replacement cannot begin until June, so I agreed to stay until July 1 to go over information he needs to make this a smooth transition and to help with the Reading Academy June 11-15.

We are blessed to have 29 FSU students in a Teaching Diverse Populations class assigned to do their 15 service learning hours with us in the Reading Academy, so prayers for volunteers have been abundantly answered! I'm excited about our curriculum for "Secrets of the Forest" and all the children will learn about forests, woodland animals, and the Native Americans who lived here long ago. Our field trip to Mission San Luis the last day will make it all very real to them!

We have nine children who qualified for and are going to Camp Weed June 7-10 to the mini-camp session, "Under the Sea". It will be their first time as part of camp with children from other churches, and I'm looking forward to hearing great stories of how much fun they had meeting other campers! Most clothes are ready for them from donated clothes we saved, but we still need incidental supplies like bug spray/sunscreen/flashlights etc. and we welcome any Wal-Mart gift cards to help purchase these items.

And finally, I get to say farewell one more time! Thank you for celebrating with me on Saturday, April 28. I leave with great memories of Grace Mission, the children, and you. You have blessed my life in so many ways and I'm so grateful for all of you. Thoughts of your love and support for me, the children, and Grace Mission will always warm my heart and be a part of me. Thank you again for going on this journey with me and blessing me and so many along the way.

With Love,

Elizabeth



*Honoring Elizabeth at her retirement luncheon.*

## *A Transformed Life through Help\*Healing\*Hope*

Hello Pastor Amanda and the Grace Mission family. I wanted to say thank you for the support, the love and the fellowship. I would like to thank my spiritual mom and dad Michael and Sterling Henderson who was instrumental in helping me with my addiction, who loved me for who I was with(out) prejudice. To my beloved Pastor Amanda, a rock, steadfast who stands on the commandments and never hesitating to tell me the truth. That truth Pastor has brought me to this point in God's plan. On May 4, 2018, I will receive my Master of Social Work degree with certification in Leadership in Executive Administrative Development from the Florida State University (FSU), with a 3.9 GPA. Grace Mission has meant so much to me as I travel the dark roads of addiction with no remorse for the pain I caused so many including my family. Yet, the doors of Grace Mission stayed open to me, provided me with opportunities for healing and service to the community where I was raised.

God has the power to transform the world through us because when we committed ourselves to following Christ, we also committed to living our lives in such a way that a watching world would catch a glimpse of God's character – His love, justice and mercy through our words, actions and behavior. "We are...Christ's ambassadors," wrote the apostle Paul, "as though God were making his appeal through us" (2 Cor. 5:20). God chose us to be His representatives. He called us to go out, to proclaim the "good news" - to be the "good news" - and to change the world. Living out our faith privately was never meant to be an option. This power, this love has transformed me because of Christ's ambassadors like yourself Pastor, who proclaim to me the good news that Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of my faith and my life story.

Today, Pastor Amanda, I am Missionary Chaplain with Gospel Express Ministries (GEMS). I worked for Living Stones International Ministries, drug and alcohol free. I am engaged in Big Bend After Reentry Coalition as a board member, board member of the Hope House, a mentor at Gadsden Reentry to men who travel the dark roads I've traveled. I testify and witness with transparency to deliver the truth, God can make the crooked path straight. I regret none of the past, I embrace it because God used it to shape and mold me into this lifestyle I reflect to those I minister to. I am having a graduation party at Jim and Milts on W. Pensacola St. if you would like to come. Again, I thank you Pastor Amanda and everyone at Grace Mission for everything you gave me through the love of Christ that dwells richly in you. To God be the glory forever.

Blessing,

Freddie Rouse

Reentry Coordinator/Case Manager/MSW

## *Welcome New Grace Mission Staff*

Please join us in welcoming our new staff member **Shauna Allen**, who has joined Grace Mission as Volunteer Coordinator/Administrative Assistant. Shauna is a native of Tuskegee, Alabama and a graduate of the University of Alabama with a B.S. in Biology. She retired after 26 years as a natural resource manager, planner and project manager in the public sector with the USDA Forest Service, State of Florida, National Park Service, and US Army Corps of Engineers. Shauna and husband Scott, a Tallahassee native, are celebrating 25 years of marriage. They have three daughters, Jasmine Allen McCoy (Nelson), Lauren and Carly, two grandsons, Tylin and Benjamin, and one granddaughter, Charlotte Rose. Shauna holds life memberships in Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and the Order of the Daughters of the King. She is the incoming Secretary for the Diocese of Florida Daughters of the King and charter member of the St. Teresa of Calcutta Chapter. She is a member of the Tallahassee Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and attends St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church.

### *Fundraising Events*

#### Recent

**Tips for Trips** — Our mini-fundraiser at Madison Social in February helped to raise almost \$1,000 for our Youth Program. Thank you to everyone who came out, donated and had fun!

**Cheeseburgers in Paradise** — Our annual "An Evening of Grace" fundraising Gala netted over \$31,000 to support the many ministries of Grace Mission. Special thanks go to all the volunteers, donors and sponsors for making this a successful and fun evening!

#### Upcoming

**June 9** — Join us for a fun 'Zombie' night at Township Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. All tips for the evening will go towards the Grace Mission Medical and Recovery fund. Join us for fun, laughs, and get your Zombie on! No tickets – just show up. Township has great food! In the back courtyard we will be showing the movie, "Dawn of the Dead."

**August 25** — Join us for a night of fun at Grace Mission's annual fundraiser, "**Blues & BBQ**." Party with local favorite Blues group, Brett Wellman and the Stone Cold Blues Band. Doors at the American Legion Hall (229 Lake Ella Dr.) open at 6:00 p.m. and the band begins playing at 7:00 p.m. \$10 entrance fee at the door or buy tickets at your church or online through gracemission.net. Optional dinner is \$8 (tickets sold for the dinner at the event only).

#### *Needs*

Please donate clothing and small household items to Grace Mission. All clothing and items are given out the first Wednesday of each month free to those in need. For larger donations, please call first. 850-224-3817

**GRACE MISSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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