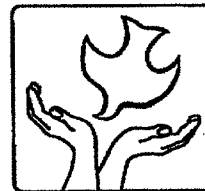


Grace HAPPENINGS



the newsletter of
Grace Mission Episcopal Church
Lent 2011

Words of Grace

The Rev. Amanda Nickles, Vicar

We are what we see. If we see only ourselves, our tombstones will have the same epitaph Paul used to describe enemies of Christ:

“Their god is their own appetite, they glory in their shame, and this world is the limit of their horizon” (Phil 3:19).

But if we see beyond ourselves, seeking and searching out Jesus Christ, we may see a different world. His world. The shamed now forgiven, the embittered now joyful, the alcoholic now dry, the drug addict now clean.

God stepped back into His world over 2000 years ago but His message is still the same today. His pierced hands still touch the most common hearts, wipe the tears from battered faces, and forgive the ugliest sins.

Christian service is nothing more than imitating Jesus who we see and who we know. At Grace Mission, we ask you to come and see what Christ is doing in our midst. At Grace Mission, we help others realize that utter despair collides at the cross with God’s unbending grace. Christ sacrificed himself to give us a second chance and at Grace Mission we try to help others realize they have a second chance, too.

Please volunteer or support Grace Mission, and step into *His World!*

FHS,
Pastor Amanda +

Pray and Wash for Grace Mission March 26th at 9:30 AM

The next *Pray and Wash* fundraiser is scheduled for March 26 from 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM.

Come to have the pollen washed off of your car and the Holy Spirit imbued into your Soul!

Fun - With a Purpose!

Elizabeth Crowe, Grace Children’s Ministries

Over the last few months we’ve had fun at Grace Mission with three outreach activities targeted to children in our Frenchtown neighborhood: Our Fall Festival, December Crafts and Valentine Arts & Crafts. But a few weeks ago we implemented another children’s outreach and **this one being huge and long term!**

February 24th we kicked off our Awana Club with 24 eager and excited children. Awana (“Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed” from 2 Timothy 2:15) is a non-denominational club centered on the Gospel, blending Bible teaching and Scripture memorization, with the goal of having children come to know, love and serve the Lord.

It’s all about fun with a purpose – we want our Awana clubbers to know that God is real, that He loves them, and that He has expressed that love through Jesus Christ. Children also will learn how God can help them in their daily lives and how to honor God in the world in which they live. Boring? Not at all!

Each club night is divided into three segments: Game time*; Handbook time; and, Council time. Game time is non-stop, ultra fun and exciting physical activity through circle games that give everyone a chance to play. No sitting on the sidelines! Children are on teams, learning to work together and to develop good sportsmanship while they are having fun. In Handbook time, clubbers work on the lessons and learn key Bible verses at their own pace with their leader. Council time, our interactive large group time, wraps up the evening with a short lesson, the much anticipated announcement of the evening’s winning teams, individual recognition, and singing. The children are having a good time and one asked me if we could do Awana instead of the After-School Program the next day!

A few statistics - We have been blessed with leaders from Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, nondenominational, and Anglican churches for our Awana Club. Seven leaders are FSU students, the rest



Grace Happens - Come and See!
Corner of Brevard and Bronough + 850/224-3817



The State of Grace

by Geoff Schwartz
Senior Warden

Loose Change

Loose change is as ubiquitous as about anything else in our society. We find it everywhere - on the floor, in our car, in our pockets, under the cushions in our chairs and sofas, in the bottom of the washing machine and dryers, on our dresser tops... You get the point!

So what usually happens with that loose change? For most of us those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and the occasional fifty cent piece get pitched into a jar or other container. Every now and then when the jar is full, we take it to the bank and trade it in for paper money, the kind that really means something. So then what?

Human nature being what it is, we treat it as "found money" and go out and spend it on something bordering on the frivolous - it's found money, so what's wrong with that? Not a darn thing! But wait.

What if now and then each of us would take our jars or containers full of loose change and dump them into a much larger container. Those pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters would add up so that all that loose change would make a real difference at a place like, hmmm....Grace Mission!

Okay (I admit) a not-too-subtle pitch for Grace Mission! But Lent is the perfect season to do this!

Grace Mission is asking each church in the area to have at least one and maybe more "**Loose Change for Grace**" Sundays during Lent. Stay tuned for news from your church on when those Sundays will be. Who knows, maybe there will be time between those Sundays to fill up our jars and do it again!

If we all pitch in together that loose change can help Grace Mission continue to make a difference in the people it serves. For example, \$15 in a jar of loose change will pay for 15 nutritious meals at Grace Mission. You do the math - it really can add up really fast!

Remember, Grace Mission makes a difference, and you can make a difference at Grace Mission!

Adult Literacy Program

Each One Teach One

"Each one teach one" is the motto from the adult literacy text books used at Grace Mission. Volunteer tutors have completed training to help adults at Grace Mission learn to read better. Students are motivated to develop their reading skills so they can help their children, read their Bibles, prepare for GED exams and get better jobs.

Literacy is a powerful ladder out of the pit of poverty. Grace Mission has only one set of the Laubach adult literacy textbooks at this time. What a helpful Lenten gift it would be to provide these books for the all in the Adult Literacy Program!

Student books come in sets for each of four levels. For \$35 a student can be equipped with his own set at his own level. Students will demonstrate a level of commitment before being given their set and allowed to write in their own workbook. Please help shepherd these adults into the world of literacy at Grace Mission by making a donation to this important program.

Awana ...from page one

are working, retired or students. Sixteen clubbers are in K-3rd grade and most are non-readers or struggle with reading. As such, most leaders have only two children to shepherd. I need a few more leaders in order to have no groups of three, and one-on-one for the children who need extra attention and help. Do you want to be part of changing the life of a child? He or she could become a Christian! If you are considering being a part of this exciting adventure or would like more information, please call me at 320-2233.

I ask your prayers for this ministry, the children and the leaders, especially for Thursdays when our club meets from 6:00 to 7:30pm. Thank you for your prayer support!

*On the "Bing" search engine, input You Tube. Once there, input Awana Games Sheboygan and click on the Sheboygan, Wisc. Club. It's usually the first or second item to be listed on Bing.

Spaghetti Dinner – April 11th at 5:00 PM

The Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser is set for April 11 from 5:00 until 7:00 PM.

Dinner is served by the Hands of God through the parishioners at Grace Mission. \$5.00 donation/\$1.00 for dessert.

Both take-out and eat-in, with meat or vegetarian options!!!



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