

# Grace and Peace

A Newsletter from Grace Methodist Church (*The Miracle Church*)

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*Grace Methodist Church where people gather to celebrate, serve, and grow in Christ.*

## A Message from Pastor Kip...Lost Bible

There seems to be a pattern developing in my life. And so far, it seems to be a good one. It's not the one where I walk to the shed for a tool, and then when I get there, I have no idea why I am out there at all. And it's not the one where I have something in my hand, must put it down for some reason, and then, within moments, I cannot find it. These are not good patterns! But they do seem to be everyday patterns.



This is a pattern where something is mysteriously missing and then suddenly just pops up out of thin air! Like the lost checkbook and cash. I hope you remember that one. This involves something even more critical; God's Word!

In 1989 our family moved to Forsyth, Ga. We were appointed to a "Student Pastorate" from Candler School of Theology, and I served Ebenezer U.M.C. in Forsyth. I led worship and preached every Sunday and drove into Atlanta every Tuesday through Friday for seminary.

This was a very special church in our lives. Besides being my first appointment, we made lifelong friends there also. In later years I would have the blessing of officiating the weddings of three daughters of one family! This was indeed a special place.

Upon the bittersweet time to say goodbye and move back to Florida to take my first FL Conference appointment in Apalachicola, I was presented two very special gifts. The first was a U.M.C. hymnal signed by a Discipleship Studies class of young people which met in the evening. I have used that hymnal every Sunday since. The second gift was a Bible presented by the church during our last service there. This too became a treasured gift. While I did not use this particular Bible every Sunday, it remained nearby and very meaningful to me.

Then the years began to fly by. After four moves to different churches, I managed to lose track of this Bible. Then, just like the checkbook - poof! - it reappeared! It first reappeared as a picture in a text. The cover had wear marks on it, and my name on the bottom in gold! It had to be mine! Then came the second picture. This picture was of the dedication

page. There it was: "Presented to Kip Younger, May 17th, 1992 from Ebenezer U.M.C., Forsyth, GA." Holy Cow! Isn't that just something?

The craziest thing about the long-lost Bible is that it almost made its way to Africa! Yes, that far away place on the other side of the world! It seems as though while serving at Inverness U.M.C., our Children's Director somehow ended up with this Bible in her office. When she resigned and packed her office somehow this Bible got packed up with her other materials. Then, it must have made its way into her home in Pine Ridge, and remained there for some time. Then when she moved to Ohio, so did the Bible.

She is currently preparing for another move to Michigan to be near family. It seems as though this Bible had been placed in a book cabinet when she first moved into her home in Ohio. Now, years later, she started to pack the materials in the cabinet, and found the Bible. She sent me the above-mentioned pictures and then packed the Bible into another box to be taken to her church and then shipped to Africa for young people to have.

When I texted her back to ask her to please send it to me, she realized the Bible was soon to leave for Africa with many other books and study materials, all repacked into new and bigger boxes. She called the church and told them; "Please! Don't do anything with the books I just brought down!" Too late. She had to go through the repacked boxes to locate the Bible. She found it in the first box! Greatly relieved, she brought the Bible home.

I think this ended up being a "Double God Thing"! I will soon receive the Bible given to me out of love from my first church appointment, fourteen years later. And she not only found the missing Bible, but she found it the second time quickly and easily! Ain't God something?

Blessings, to you all, Pastor Kip

### **Faith Community Nurse (FCN)...**Karen Kline

**Exciting News...**We have a new addition to the Health Ministry for Grace! As a Faith Community Nurse, I have been contracted with the BayCare Health System for quite some time. In the past few years, BayCare added another level to their program called Community Health Promoter (CHP). Recently, I talked with Katie Snowberger about joining me in this capacity as part of our Health Ministry program. Katie jumped at the opportunity and recently completed her training with BayCare based on the "Church Health Center Congregational Health Promoter Training and Model for Healthy Living". Like myself, she will have a signed contract between BayCare and Grace Methodist Church.

Luke 9:2, "Then he sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick". This scripture seems to be a basis for a Congregational Health Ministry. It is not simply a role of preventing disease/illness but embracing the call to live whole and healing lives.

So then, what exactly is a CHP? It's a person who is a respected member of the congregation, who serves within their congregation and community at large, and is interested in promoting health. It is focused on seven dimensions of health that include

faith, movement, work, emotional nutrition, family and friends, and medical to “fulfill a sense of self and well-being”, and more.

Katie has already started her ministry with the start of the Helping Hand Ministry for our congregation. She and I have already started putting our heads together with wonderful ideas for all of you.

So please congratulate and pray for Katie and the growth of the Health Ministry for our church.

### **Stephen Ministers...Carol MacKenzie**

Our congregation has been blessed having Stephen Ministers available for consultation. Our current Stephen Ministers and leaders are: Pastor Bill Farmer, Dick Bily, Carolyn Bright, Joyce Foxwell, Jane Hamilton, Kathie Henderson, Becky Jones, Jan Metcalf, Tom Metcalf, and Sue Philips. Our Stephen Ministry Leaders are: Karen Kline and Carol MacKenzie.

If you need help, our Stephen Ministers are available by calling either Karen Kline at 352-634-1781 or Carol MacKenzie at 382-8926 or cell 352-201-9380. A Stephen Minister will meet with you one-on-one, with total **confidentiality** because we are here for you...you are not alone. Someone to listen to you and pray with you.

### **Mission Moment...Donna Farmer**

#### **CHRISTMAS IN JULY...(Supporting Samaritan's Purse)**

Do you remember when you were a kid how you could spend hours looking at Sears & Roebuck or Montgomery Ward Christmas catalogs? The Mission Committee is giving you that opportunity again. It was our plan to let you once again in 2024 (as we did in 2023) pick an animal or project that you would like to support as a Christmas gift to Samaritan's Purse (Samaritan's Purse has a catalog of animals and projects). However, the extensive hurricane damage in North Carolina last year made the catalogs unavailable to us. Therefore, we decided to postpone the project until July. We are entering shopping season to pick your gift from their catalog.

We have catalogs available for you to select your gift:

1. Feel free to take a catalog or you can see the catalog on-line by searching for Samaritan's Purse gift catalog and select a gift that fits your heart and your budget. After you have selected your gift, return the catalog for others to use.
2. Place your cash or check along with your gift choice (name & number) into an envelope (forms will be available) and place them in the offering basket.

Additional Missions that Grace supports:

- RESIDING HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME (designated gifts and all \$1 bills in offering)
- GIDEONS (annual special offering)
- GIFTS OF FOOD (1<sup>st</sup> UMC Food Bank)

Thank you! Grace Mission Committee

## **Women of Worship (W.O.W)...**Sharon Miller

Thank you, Grace Methodist, for all the support that you give to the WOW's projects. Don't forget to continue supporting WOW's collecting of stamps and soda pop-top tabs which can be placed in the respective boxes on the table by the Food Pantry in the small fellowship hall. WOW meets every second Thursday at 2:00. Come join the fun.

## **Grace Place--News from the Ladies of Grace (LOG)...**Sue Pagano

- **Sweet Celebrations for Father's Day...****Sweet Celebrations** cookie boxes are returning for Father's Day, June 15. We, again, will give out gift boxes of sweet selections to dads with cookies, brownies, cupcakes, and candies contributed by church members. Join in by donating homemade or bakery treats. You can also bring gourmet chocolates like Lindt and Giardelli wrapped candies or Andes mints. On Saturday, June 14, bring contributions to church from 9-10am. Our Cookie Committee, chaired by Rose Matchen, will place them in gift boxes to pass out on Sunday.
- **Helping Hands Ministry**  
**Helping Hands Ministry** has launched! There are so many ways to help others in our church- trimming trees before hurricanes, making dinner for someone who has recently been discharged from the hospital or contacting someone who lives alone to be sure they are OK. We know that you can't do everything, but you have value and can do something.
- Katie Snowberger, LPN, is leading the Helping Hands Ministry that offers help for these and other needs. Ladies of Grace (LOG) made this a big focus of our efforts. For now, Ladies of Grace meetings and Helping Hands Ministry meetings will be on the same day.
- LOG next meeting date: Tuesday, June 17 @ 10:00  
LOG meetings have changed to the third Tuesday monthly ....10am
- Helping Hands (men and women should attend)...11am
- Please be part of this wonderful ministry. Both men and women are needed.
- **Comfort & Care Meals**...June Kirschbaum  
The Comfort and Care Meals Committee continues to deliver meals to folks who need a little help to get through a rough patch due to illness, grief, or any of life's speed bumps. These meals nourish the body and the spirit. To arrange a confidential delivery, contact June Kirschbaum by phone: (352) 382-0424 or email: [junekirsch13@gmail.com](mailto:junekirsch13@gmail.com). She needs help with these meals, so please call her and volunteer to help.
- **National Day of Prayer Service on May 1 Was a Big Success**  
On May 1, more than 100 people gathered near the flag of Grace Methodist Church for Homosassa's first community observance of the National Day of Prayer. This was also the first joint program of a Homosassa Pastors Association, recently founded under the leadership of our pastors Bill Farmer and Kip Younger.

Leaders from Calvary Chapel, Christ's Family Church, Nature Coast Church, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, and Sugarmill Assembly of God joined Pastor Farmer and Pastor Mike Oliver for the service. Each pastor prayed for a special part of our community fabric— churches, families, businesses and employees, educators,

health care workers, law enforcement, military, homeless persons, and others in need. Becky Jones was the worship leader and soloist.

Thanks to Terry Cornelius, AV-tech; Rob Wackerman pianist; Neil Kline, live streaming; the Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Group for parking assistance and logistics, and for everyone's contributions to the success of this event.

### **Message from Pastor Bill – What to Expect for the Next Three Sundays**

***“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1 John 4:7–8, NIV)***

Can you remember what it was like when you first realized that you were in love with someone. Perhaps there were many long phone calls or letters back and forth, or a lot of time together. You longed to be together. I've heard people say they felt that way about their church. They love being there and being together with the people—always anticipating more time together. That is the way it should be with God/Jesus/Holy Spirit. Always wanting more of the God.

An underlying theme for the next three weeks of preaching is **more of God**. June 1 will bring us closer to God as we hear Jesus praying to His Father about us. How he longs for us to be in him as he is in the Father. That in our diversity with each other, we will be united because we are all in love with the God who loves us.

The second Sunday of June we will experience the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is Pentecost Sunday. We think of this as the birthday of the Church. God's Spirit touched the hearts, minds, tongues, ears and more that day. We too are blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Just look around and see what God is doing in the hearts and minds of the people. See how they love one another. See what they are doing to make the church a warm and friendly place.

The third Sunday of June is Trinity Sunday and Fathers' Day. This winter we listened to Del Tackett lead us through The Truth Project. He did a marvelous job of sharing The Nature of God and explaining the Trinity and why it is important to each of us. Therefore, I am planning to share some of his presentation. It not only presents the Trinity, it demonstrates the family relationship as a pattern of the Trinity.

Friends, I am excited about the next three weeks of getting closer to God through Jesus praying for us in *John 17*, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the visualization of the Trinity through the teaching of The Truth Project.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Bill Farmer

### **THE WAYS OF THE KINGDOM...Jan Wise**

***SCRIPTURE: A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (John 13:34-35)***

***THE STORY:*** Pastor Kip talked about this scripture a couple weeks ago, and it caught my attention. So later that day I reread it and found myself wondering why it was a "new

command". Every church "goer" knows we are to love God and one another. So why was this new?

Then I remembered the words in **2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here."** These men were as "in Christ" as it was possible to be before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Jesus was speaking to them of a new relationship among them only fully possible when the Holy Spirit came to live in them, enabling them to love each other as Christ had loved them. But the most amazing part to me is Christ's last sentence: "By this everyone will know you are my disciples if you love one another." Not by the many things we do, not by how big our congregation, not how large our offerings, but *by the way we love one another* will we be *recognized by everyone* to be disciples of Jesus.

This verse also explained to me Jesus' words written to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:4-5. Jesus recognized their positive Christian accomplishments, their hard work and their perseverance. Then he wrote, "Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first! Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent and do the things you did at first, I will come to you and remove your lampstand (your church) from its place."

Perhaps in their busyness to accomplish things for God, the Ephesians had gradually moved from the loving of one another to a passion for their projects. Satan was able to deceive them into believing that what their church did for God caused people to see what good Christians they were. People would come to their church and join in their projects. *But Jesus knew finding a place full of God's loving acceptance would be the first need of the seeking heart.* The world offers many worthwhile projects, but churches in which God's love flows among those who "go there" and reaches out to enfold those who visit are rare. Yet it is by this loving atmosphere Jesus said people would know we are his disciples!

**TO PONDER:** What kind of a church are we? What kind of church do we want to become? From these verses we have considered, what is the most important attribute to guard and encourage among us? As God continues to prosper us and help us develop in our love for him and each other, what do you see as important things we can do, individually and as a group, to find and follow his plan for us as his Church?

#### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING...**Karen J. Stone



**IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ... IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO VOLUNTEER WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES AT ANYTIME WITHIN THE CHURCH, YOU WILL NEED SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING**

In the Spring, 2024, 28 Grace Methodist Church attendees completed Ministry Safe Sexual Abuse Awareness Training. This training is important for all individuals who plan on volunteering within our church where precious children are involved. The Global Methodist Church, and therefore our church, endorses using Ministry Safe for such training. The training and background check is free to the individual, can be done online from home, and takes a little over an hour to complete. **If you haven't already**

completed the training and plan to be a church volunteer at any time assisting where our precious children are involved (i.e. VBS), please let Karen Stone know as soon as possible. She can be reached at 302-270-8273 or [karen.stone3@yahoo.com](mailto:karen.stone3@yahoo.com)

### **Renovation Committee Notes...Ron Snowberger**

The Renovation Committee met with LEI once again, on May 28 to provide final input and direction on the revised floor plan for Grace. This is a very exciting plan that will be revealed once the final draft has been fully completed by LEI and returned to the Committee. The Committee expects that the final plan will be shared in July or August to the congregation. Through prayer and God's guidance, plans to remodel God's church for expansion is becoming a reality. The Renovation Committee has been working very hard with the architects and engineers to produce a plan that will serve the church for years to come. We look forward to sharing the vision for our renovated church very soon.

### **Vacation Bible School (VBS) – June 9-13 – 9:00 am to 12 noon**

Please join and volunteer to help Miss Laurie with our VBS for a fun and slightly different VBS from the traditional VBS. Miss Laurie has the week planned for children to learn woodworking, cooking, candy making, baking, and many other life skills that are necessary to succeed in today's world. Along with these life skills, she will have scripture, bible verses, and music to teach our children about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Please encourage your children, grandchildren, and neighbor's children to come join the fun. Contact Miss Laurie Painter at 352-382-2299 if you have any questions.

### **RUMMAGE SALE**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS YEAR'S DATES: **Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**

**DONATION DATES ARE:**

- **Saturday, August 30 and**
- **Saturday, September 27**

**NOTE: Donations after September 27 will not be accepted.**

On donation days, volunteers will be needed for sorting, pricing, boxing, and storing.

**Please volunteer!** If you have questions, call Priscilla/Andy Frederick @ 352-212-4037

### **CATEGORIES BEING ELIMINATED:**

- Books...CD's...VHS...DVD's...and any electronics
- Furniture of any kind...and linens

### **Note from Carolyn Bright**

Due to my current medical issues, Priscilla Frederick (352-212-4037) will be team leader for the card ministry and Rose Matchen (352-584-2808) will be chairperson for the blood drives. If you have any questions, please contact either Priscilla or Rose at the above numbers. Thank you, ladies, for assuming the team leader roles for these two important ministries at Grace.

### **ATTENTION...SECURITY OF THE CHURCH...Bob MacKenzie**

In the interest of security and the safety of all at Grace, anyone that has been issued a key for accessing our building, PLEASE be vigilant in securing the location that you access. Thank you.





## GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH 2025 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE...June 13 & 14, 2025

Everyone is invited to attend the 2025 FL Annual Conference of the Global Methodist Church. The theme for this Conference is *"Preparing for the Presence"*. For non-clergy members the conference will be held from Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Living Hope Church in Clermont, FL. For more information please refer to the following website: [annualconference2025.rsvpify](https://annualconference2025.rsvpify) How wonderful it would be to see an ocean of blue shirts representing our church at the conference. Lunch will be available at \$15 per person each day.

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: Sign the volunteer sheets in Fellowship Hall**

- Cleaning the church weekly
- Bringing snacks for Sunday morning fellowship
- Handing out the Sunday bulletin

### **Dates for 2025 Blood Drive...Carolyn Bright**

- June 8, 2025 – 7:30 – 12 noon.
- September 14, 2025
- December 14, 2025



Grace's last blood drive collected 3 units saving 15 lives.

Thank you so much for your support. However, a total of 8 units on the June 8 blood drive will keep local hospital needs at an adequate level. It would be awesome if we could get 8 or 10 donors/units collected on June 8. Please consider donating! Thank you.

**ATTENTION: Administrative Board meeting scheduled for June 11 has been canceled.** The next Administrative Board will be July 9 @ 9:00 am. Church members are invited and welcome to attend.

**Please remember...no beverages other than water in the Sanctuary and PLEASE silence your cell phones.**

**Choir News:** The choir will be taking the month of July off for vacation. Special music will be available every Sunday while the choir is vacationing.

### **Meetings for the Month of June**

- June 1 -- Communion Sunday
- June 2 -- Memory Lane Support and Respite @ 1:00
- June 4 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00
- Finance – NO MEETING
- Choir @ 4:00



- June 5 -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise
- June 5 -- Lunch Bunch Bible Study 11:30 led by Sharon Miller
- June 6 -- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00
- June 6 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ Meadowcrest @ 10:00
- June 9-13 -- Vacation Bible School**
- June 11 -- Choir @ 4:00
- June 13-14 -- GMC Annual Conference, Clermont, FL
- June 15 -- Father's Day**
- June 16 -- Memory Lane Support and Respite @ 1:00
- June 17 -- LOG @ 10:00
- June 18 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00
- June 18 -- Choir Practice @ 4:00
- June 19 -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise
- June 19 -- Lunch Bunch Bible Study 11:30 led by Sharon Miller
- June 19 -- Women of Worship (WOW) @ 2:00
- June 20 -- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00
- June 20 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ Meadowcrest @ 10:00
- June 21 -- Pancake Breakfast @ 8:00
- June 23 -- Memory Lane Support and Respite @ 1:00
- June 25 -- Men's Prayer Breakfast @ 7:00
- June 25 -- Worship Committee @ 11:00
- June 25 -- Trustees @ 2:30
- June 25 -- Choir Practice @ 4:00
- June 26 -- S.O.A.P. Bible Study @ 10:00 led by Jan Wise
- June 26 -- Lunch Bunch @ 11:30 led by Sharon Miller
- June 27 -- Pastor Bill's Bible Study @ 10:00 @ Meadowcrest
- June 27 -- Jan Wise Bible Study @ 10:00
- June 30 -- Memory Lane Support & Respite @ 1:00

### **Future Dates to Remember**

**July 9 – Administrative Board Meeting**

**October 24-25 – Rummage Sale**

**November 27 – Thanksgiving Day**

**November 30 – December 24, 2025 – Advent**

*Like a sunflower, stand tall and find the light within yourself....Author Unknown*

**Grace Methodist Church is a member of the Global Methodist Church**

