



Volume 11, Issue 1
January 2022

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JANUARY PASTOR'S PEN

"Prophecies for 2022!"

Beloved Members and Friends of Grace EPC,

The title above is tongue-in-cheek for I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet. But I do want to make some predictions about life at Grace in 2022. These are based on both my experience and the Word of God, so I trust that they are sound.

Prediction #1—The Word of God will be proclaimed faithfully from the Grace pulpit every Lord's Day. Pastors John, Rick and I may not be as eloquent as some preachers you hear online (i.e. Tim Keller!) but we are faithful to God's Word and know the church. We are, therefore, in the best position to apply the Word to our congregation. Our messages this year will affirm the truth that, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (II Tim. 3: 16, 17)

Prediction #2—The majority of the congregation will still gather in person at our church building rather than watching the service online. It is difficult to have fellowship with a television set. The writer of Hebrews emphasizes how important it is to have face-to-face encounters with other members of the Body of Christ. "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." The Day of the Lord's return is always closer each year, though nobody knows the time or the season. However, until He comes, we should be found worshipping, fellowshiping and serving as a united company of saints. Pastor Rick is overseeing a wonderful program of education, missions and small groups to help us grow. There is an exception for those whom the Puritans described as "providentially hindered." But if you're able to get to the grocery store or the hair salon, you should be able to come to church!

Prediction #3—Through the ministry of Pastor John and the Elders, members and friends of Grace will be given compassionate ministry in time of need. My prayer is that our shepherding program will be even more effective in 2022 in letting the congregation know that your elders care about you and are available to meet your needs. "Cared for people care for people" and Grace is a caring congregation.



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Prediction #4—This is a sanctified guess, but I believe the congregation will respond enthusiastically to the challenge of building a new facility that can reach many more people for Christ. We're in a pretty hidden location with no room for expansion. Our property on Highway 27, *given to us so generously*, will be able to meet our needs and give us room to grow. As Les Deatherage has said, "The money to build a new church is there. It's just sitting in peoples' bank accounts." May we share the vision of reaching many more people with the gospel and may we give generously to fund that vision.

Big love in Jesus,
Pastor Dave



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By Elder Linda Pool

BLESSED BE THE NAME OF THE LORD

Blessed be the name of the Lord,
He is worthy to be praised and adored.
So we lift up holy hands in one accord,
Singing, "Blessed be the name, blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord."

----Don Moen

Worship is contagious. It just takes one person, willing to be vulnerable to God and the people around, to infect a whole group.

Throughout Scripture, the people who led worship had to take some risks. Moses broke out in song after crossing the Red Sea—a bold move for a reluctant leader with a stutter. David, overcome with joy, danced before the Lord, not caring whether or not it made him look foolish. Daniel openly worshiped God even though it meant putting his life on the line.

For each of these men, fears of what they might look like or how they might be labeled or what might become of them could not hold them back. As a result, whole nations were led into God's presence. Lives were saved, and people were directed back to God.

Have you ever stopped to consider the effect your worship might have on those around you? Your praise can help fight their spirit of heaviness or give them the hope they need for their future. You might make the difference between their pressing on or giving up.

God is looking for true worshipers who will bless His name. Will you be the one to shout out loud and not hold back? Could this be your song?

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. Psalm 113:2 (KJV)

Prayer: What risks are you willing to take to worship God? Let God examine what might hold you back and ask Him to help make your worship pleasing to Him alone.

From: *"Songs 4 Worship presents Open the Eyes of My Heart"*



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! We are again starting a new unused year. What can we do with it? Can we improve our outreach and bring more nonbelievers into the fold so they can hear the Word? “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17

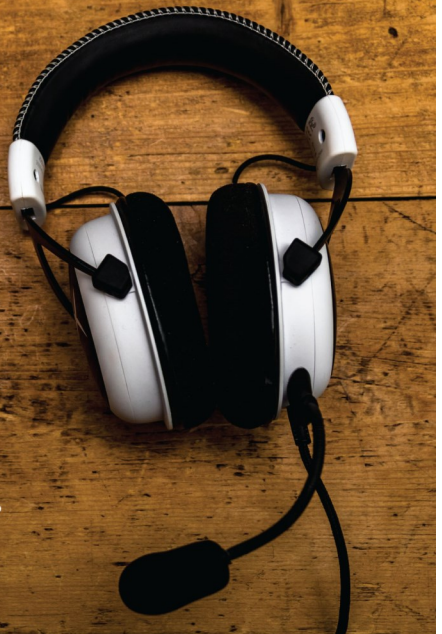
It is our job to share the Word with as many as possible. Okay, how do we do that? I firmly believe that we are being led to greatly increase our ability to accommodate more attendees by establishing a presence on our property on US27 such that we can teach more than double our current numbers. This while ensuring that the facility is welcoming to those that are not accustomed to being in a church or attending services.

What? I just felt someone think “he’s dreaming, we can’t do that”! Hey, I agree, we can’t. However, our Lord can, and we can help or He will just get someone else. That is entirely up to each of us. There have been some conversations with an architect to help understand what we can do on our property and to get an idea of the costs. The only idea that I have is that it will not be cheap.

However, I know that we can do this if we simply start planning for it now and begin to generously support our building fund. Remember that for many of us our days here are coming to a close so those of us in that situation don’t have the luxury of time. That being the case, we will not do this for ourselves but for those that follow. How many times have I asked, which of you have worshiped in a church facility that you actually helped build? My guess is not many, and that being the case we have all been worshipping and having fellowship in facilities built by those that preceded us. Also, and I can’t iterate this enough, many of us have been blessed with “more than enough” with the expectation that we will use some of the excess to expand His kingdom here. So, that means that we must be looking at and praying about how we increase support for the continued growth of us as we are His church.

Next and finally, we, you and I and the people sitting with us, are God’s church and He has told us that He wants His church to grow. So our job is to seek ways to encourage others to join us. There will be explosive growth in our area over the next few years so we must find a way to be waiting for those new folks with doors and arms wide open.

In Christ,
Dave Hoffmeyer
Stewardship & Finance



**So faith comes
from hearing,
and hearing
through the
word of Christ.**

ROMANS 10:17, ESV



Ann Johnson - 4th
 Nancy Norwood - 6th
 Mary Arnold - 7th
 Pastor Dave Dorst - 7th
 Dana Brigham - 8th
 Pat Byrnes - 10th
 Wallace Hoffman - 16th
 Jim Wertley - 19th
 Paul Chermak - 20th
 Dorothy Rode - 21st
 Wally Klee, Sr. - 25th

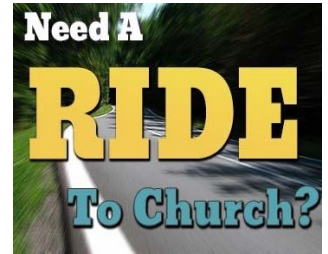


Thank you!

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas! It turned out beautifully thanks to all your hard work and help!



Need a ride?
 Can we help you with anything?
 Let us know!



The Last Friday Women's Breakfast is scheduled for **January 28th at 8:30am at Perkins in Leesburg**



- Pastor Dave Dorst
- Pastor John Fraser
- Pastor Rick Rosenkrans
- Larry Hochhalter (2021)
- Jack Homoney (2023)
- Wally Klee, Sr. (2023)
- Kris Ogden (2021)
- Marvin Pool (2023)
- Shelby Reed (2021)
- Al Rode, Jr. (2023)
- Jim Teets (2021)



Prayer Time with Pastor John

January 6th & 20th at 1:00PM

We would love to pray for you!
 GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com
 (352) 552-0052.



Widow's Luncheon Thursday, January 20th 11:30am at Belle Glade

Please let Sue know if you are planning to attend by Sunday, January 16th.

Alice Crotty



Alice lives in the Hawthorne community, south of Leesburg. She was born and raised in Queens, New York, one of six girls. Her mother passed away when she was 11, and a year later, her Dad met and married a widow with 3 boys and a girl! The 12 of them didn't live together for long, as the older children moved out on their own within a year.

After graduating from bayside High School, where she met her future husband, she worked for Bankers Trust on Wall Street. Her husband spent a year in Vietnam. When he returned, he worked at a post office. They married on 9/11/1972. Their son, Robert Jr. was born in 1974.

Alice had many different jobs, from working in a bank, to building frames and driving a school bus. She worked for the last 18 years as a Safety and Security Officer for the New York State Office of Mental Health. She worked in Manhattan Psychiatric Center, where she was promoted to Sgt. She transferred to Sagamore Children's Psychiatric Center in 2006, to be closer to her Dad, who was on Home hospice.

Her son is a vertical transportation engineer, in other words, an elevator mechanic! He married in 2007 to a wonderful girl, a Dr. of Pharmacy. In 2007, they had twin girls, Ava and Sophia. The girls were 3 months premature and only weighed 1 pound 10 ounces and 2 pounds, 11 ounces. Thank God they are 6 now and healthy, happy girls!

Alice first came down to Florida to visit a girl she had been friends with for 56 years. They grew up across the street from one another. Alice was still working and not planning on buying a home until she called and told Alice the house across the street from her, here in Hawthorne, was for sale, and at a price Alice could afford. Alice retired from State service in June 2013 and moved down here in October. She has many hobbies which she is able to do here in Hawthorne, including acting, painting, dancing, and shooting.

She was invited to come to Grace EPC by Cindy Semenik, who has helped her grow in many ways and encouraged her to become a CCW instructor. They have become very close friends. She hopes she is able to help Grace EPC grow and share the Word of God. She feels very blessed to be living in Hawthorne and to have made such wonderful friends.



Castro's Mexican Ministry—How It All Began

Back in the 1990's our very own Grace friend, Mary Kinney, was a mission worker with the Presbyterian Border Ministry. During this time, the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico had asked the PCUSA to build churches in seven sites along the US and Mexico border. Each church site had a half USA and half Mexico oversight committee, and a US ordained pastor and a Mexican ordained pastor. Mary was blessed to be able to go and help in the cities of Guaymas, Hermosillo, and Nogales Mexico. In the Nogales, Arizona/Mexico location, they had attempted churches in five cities around the area.

While Mary was in Mexico, she met Meche who, at that time, was becoming a Christian and beginning the amazing journey that God was calling him to. He had started to help Mary with mission teams for this adventure. Meche is humble and very intelligent and is also now a pastor. He has helped with different churches throughout and is currently ministering to a central church. Pastor Meche is still helping with planting and will be soon in the northwest per a request from the General Assembly. His family is very excited about this next adventure and thankful to God for blessing them with this opportunity. His children are very smart and are doing well in their studies, and he praises and thanks God for their family's many blessings. His wife also helps the community by doing family counseling.

This is an amazing ministry that Grace has been blessed to help support as one of our mission partners.



The Evangelism Team
in 1999



Meche and Mary with the US Interns in Mexico in 1999

Pastor Meche and Pastor Beto helping in the local community in 2006



January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1—Happy New Year						
2 Communion Sunday 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	3 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group	4 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study Ann Johnson Birthday	5 9:45am Women's Bible Study 11:00am SS & SGBS Meeting 4:30pm Choir Practice	6 1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John Nancy Norwood Birthday	7 Mary Arnold Birthday Pastor Dave Dorst Birthday	8 9:00am Narnia Class 10:00am Church Un- Decorating Dana Brigham Birthday
9 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	10 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group Pat Byrnes Birthday	11 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study	12 9:45am Women's Bible Study 2:30pm Villages SG 4:30pm Choir Practice	13 10:00am Finance Committee Meeting 10:30am Plantation Small Group	14	15 9:00am Narnia Class
16 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School Wallace Hoffman Birthday	17 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group	18 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study 10:00am Session Meeting	19 9:45am Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Choir Practice Jim Wertley Birthday	20 11:30am Widow's Luncheon 1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John Paul Chermak Birthday	21 Dorothy Rode Birthday	22 9:00am Narnia Class
23 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	24 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group	25 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study Wally Klee, Sr. Birthday	26 9:45am Women's Bible Study 2:30pm Villages SG 4:30pm Choir Practice	27 10:30am Plantation Small Group	28 8:30am Last Friday Women's Breakfast	29 9:00am Narnia Class
30 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	31 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group					



New and Exciting Changes Coming in 2022!!!

Beginning on **Sunday, January 2nd**, our schedule will be changing a bit. After much prayer and discussion, the decision has been made to have Sunday School before Worship, leaving the time afterwards open for additional studies or activities. The new schedule beginning **Sunday, January 2nd** will be as follows:

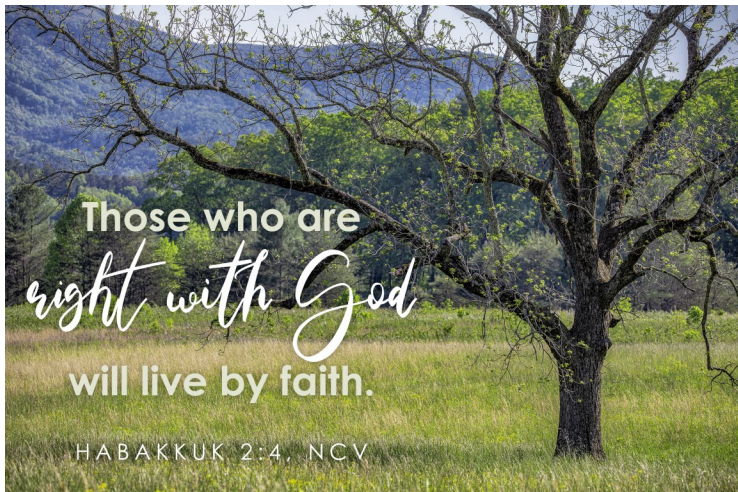
- 9:00am-9:45am Sunday School
- 9:45am-10:30am Fellowship Time
- 10:30am-11:30am Worship



January Sermon Series

Little Books with Big Messages

Jan 2nd	Ruth
Jan 9th	Joel
Jan 16th	Obadiah
Jan 23rd	Jonah
Jan 30th	Habakkuk



New Mission Partner Coming in 2022!!

Access-Life Ministries

The folks at Access-Life are all about “bridging the gap” between individuals and families who are affected by disabilities and Christ honoring churches, organizations, and people through wholesome and fun events and activities!

They love to see someone with a disability do something they never thought was possible, a parent of a child with special needs get a chance to catch their breath and be renewed and even siblings of folks with disabilities receive a little special attention—all in Jesus’ name.



Why do they do it? Because all people are created by God and, in turn, have inherent value whether physically or mentally disabled or totally able-bodied.

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

Psalm 139:13-14

**Want to know more?
Visit Access-Life.org**



Updated Directories are available starting January 2nd!

Pick up a copy in the narthex!



Happy New Year!!!

*"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31*

It was a joy to have a blessing of the shawls, lapghans and quilts a short time ago. Two of our members were finally able to join us after a lengthy time away due to covid. As we move forward with this ministry, I would love to invite other crafters to join us -- if you love to knit, sew, crochet or quilt please make yourself known. Our handmade quilts and lapghans go to those who are going through difficult circumstances and also to caregivers which can be trying as well. We also have baby blankets and quite a number of them have been donated to the pregnancy center at the Christian Care Center. We have put cards in the chair pockets for you to request an item or you can speak to me or another member after Sunday service. We are called to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15); we hope this ministry speaks of our care for others, especially of the household of faith.

Standing at the portal,
Of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us,
Hushing every fear;
Spoken through the silence
By our Father's voice,
Tender, strong and faithful,
Making us rejoice.

He will never fail us,
He will not forsake
His eternal cov'nant
He will never break.

Resting on His promise,
What have we to fear?
God is all-sufficient
For the coming year.

Onward then, and fear not,
Children of the day;
For His word shall never,
Never pass away.

(Author: Frances R. Havergal)

Blessings,
Jill Fraser

*Prayer Shawls and Blankets
blessed at the December 12th
Worship Service*





Worship: 700 S. 9th St., Leesburg, FL

Mailing: P. O. Box 490001

Leesburg, FL 34749

352-552-0052

Rev. Dr. Dave Dorst

Email: graceepclesburg@gmail.com

Website: GraceEPC.church

Like us on Facebook: Grace EPC

All activities are tentative and subject to change.

SUNDAYS:

- 9:00 AM ~ Sunday School
- 9:45 AM ~ Fellowship Time
- 10:30 AM ~ Worship Service

MONDAYS:

- 6:30PM ~ Royal Highlands Small Group

TUESDAYS:

- 8:00 AM ~ Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Perkins
- 10:00 AM ~ Session Meeting (1/18)

WEDNESDAYS:

- 9:45AM ~ Women's Bible Study
- 11:00AM ~ SS & SGBS Committee Meeting (1/5)
- 2:00 PM ~ Villages Small Group (1/12 & 1/26)
- 4:30 PM ~ Choir Practice

THURSDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting (1/13)
- 10:30 AM ~ Plantation Small Group (1/13 & 1/27)
- 11:30 AM ~ Widow's Luncheon (1/20) ~ *Belle Glade*
- 1:00 PM ~ Prayer Time with Pastor John - (1/6 & 1/20)

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (1/28) ~ *Perkins in Leesburg*

SATURDAYS:

- 9:00 AM ~ Chronicles of Narnia Class (1/8, 1/15, 1/22, & 1/29)
- 10:00 AM ~ Christmas Un-Decorating (1/8)