



GRACE NOTES



Volume 10, Issue 1

January 2021

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JANUARY PASTOR'S PEN "What I've Learned From COVID"

Beloved Members and Friends of Grace EPC,

We are all used to reading warning labels on almost all the products we buy. Some of them seem pretty ridiculous. An ad for Nytol Sleeping Pills has the warning, "May cause drowsiness." Let's hope so. A number of manufacturers of automobile sun shields add the warning, "Do not drive with sun shield in place." There should also be a warning from the state, "Anyone who drives with a sun shield in place will lose their driver's license—permanently!" I want to attach a warning to this Pastor's Pen—The following thoughts are my opinion. This is not the Word of God. You may agree or not. You won't hurt my feelings if you disagree. I am not writing this to attack anyone or ridicule anyone, simply to share my own observations.

First, some (I hope) humorous comments. I've learned that:

*Not everyone wearing a mask intends to rob you or rob a bank.

*Girls (and boys) really do have "cooties" and I'm going to stay 6 feet away from them.

Now, in a more serious vein. I've also learned that:

*It is very easy for the government to dictate to its citizens in the name of safety. Some of the edicts seem arbitrary. Some businesses and services have been deemed "essential" and remained open while others, which offer similar services, have been shut down. I'm not suggesting bad motives here, just questioning the logic. It helps to consider history. Our national government actually put Japanese Americans, some of whose children served in the armed forces, in internment camps during World War II because people were afraid of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor. Fear is a powerful emotion and President Roosevelt should have heeded his own words, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

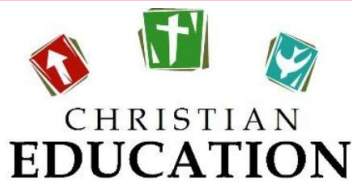
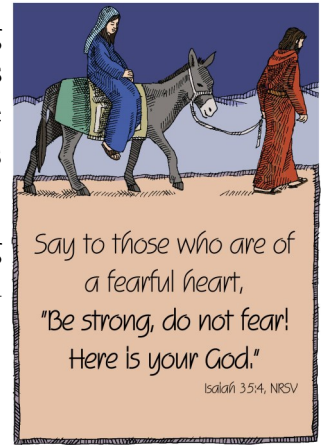
*Those in favor of widespread lockdowns repeat the mantra, "We should let science dictate." But a lot of scientific data has been ignored. For example, "There is a thousand-fold difference between the mortality rate in older people, 70 and up, and the mortality rate in children...This year, in the United States, more children have died from the seasonal flu than from COVID" (Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, Professor of Medicine at Stanford University). I support the members of our church who have decided not to attend worship because they have a compromised immune system. Thankfully, we haven't had anyone contract COVID, but it's always possible.

Pastor's Pen Cont'd

On the other hand, I don't understand schools being closed and families being forced to support distance education. I can't imagine the hardship that presents to parents who both work. The argument is used that children could bring the virus home and infect their grandparents. In that case, distance education makes sense. But closing schools across the country does not.

*We can choose whether to live in fear or not. I am not in the least suggesting careless behavior but I am suggesting that we ponder II Timothy 1: 7, "for God gave us not a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control."

Big love in Christ,
Pastor Dave



By Elder Linda Pool

MORE OF YOUR GLORY

More of Your glory,
More of Your power,
More of Your spirit in me,
Speak to my heart
And change my life;
Manifest Yourself in me.

It's been a long time
You have stayed on my mind.
There's a stirring in my soul,
And it causes me to know
How much I need You.
Send Your glory,
Send Your power,
Send Your Spirit--
Come and change me.

--Lindell Cooley and Bruce Haynes

God has an interesting way of handling trouble. When Life is most difficult, He reveals His glory. Often it is difficulty that causes a stirring in our souls, a stirring that causes us to know how much we need Him.

A week before the Transfiguration, Jesus has told His disciples clearly that He would be killed (Matthew 16:21-28). Imagine their heartache. All their hopes seemed lost. Then in one memorable moment, their suffering Savior changed into dazzling glory: "There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light" (Matthew 17:2). All their doubts and fears crumbled into dust.

How we need God's glory in our troubled lives! How we need the stirring of our souls to cause us to cry out for more of His glory, more of His power, more of His Spirit in us. God's glory provides all the hope, strength, and perspective we need to press on. His glory renews our assurance that God will be enough. And it diminishes our present troubles as compared to the "eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Life is difficult, so ask God to speak to your heart, to change your life, to manifest Himself in you. He rewards such trust with a revelation of His glory.

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3

Prayer: What do you need? More power? More love? More truth? Fix your eyes on Jesus and ask Him to reveal that aspect of His character to you. Then press on, believing He will.

From: "OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART", *Daily Devotions From the Greatest Praise and Worship Songs of all Time.*





*Stewardship and
Finance Committee*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I cannot remember ever looking forward to a new year as much as I have looked forward to this one. 2020 was a really rough period. Think about this. The world's largest economy was completely shut down for 2 months and then only slowly allowed to re-start. Now here we are 9 months later, and the economy

is still not fully operational. Now, in looking back I think that our elected "leaders" are more of a problem than the virus. After all, even when the "science" indicates otherwise they are still trying to restrict our activities. But we are still thankful for all that our Lord has provided for us. We are still here, we are meeting again, and we are still seeing new faces joining with us, in short, we are thriving.

Okay – I feel better and there is really a reason for all that. I want to remind you of some startling statistics that I have seen. Did you know that well over half of us do not have a will? Do you also realize that the easiest way to leave a legacy to our church is through your will? It seems to me that we just went through a period during which we were concerned with becoming ill and possibly dying. But while considering that, was there any thought about what happens to our assets after our death? Well, since I am not planning to die any time soon I sure didn't. But, knowing that I will at some point I have included a provision in my will that 10% of the gross proceeds be distributed to the church of which I am a member. But there are other things that you can do. For example, include the church as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy. The most startling statistic that I read was that only 8% of us regular church goers and givers include our church in our estate planning. Wow! Let's make 2021 the year in which we make that 80% for members of Grace EPC. The next and most troubling statistic that I heard was that as many as 10% of the churches that were forced to stop hosting services will never reopen. It seems that the attendees at those churches did not keep up their giving so many have had to close their doors permanently. We did not see that. While we have seen a decrease in giving it is not to the point of being a major concern. In fact, we are still trying to figure out how to move forward to accommodate our growth. Again, we thank our Lord for His benevolence, and consider that He will only continue to support us as we support Him and His wish for us to grow His kingdom.

So, please keep praying for wisdom and guidance from the Father regarding our use of the property on US 27 that He has provided to us. The Building Committee is trying to determine a recommendation to the Session as to whether we should pursue any action now and if so, what that should be. Also, if there is agreement to move forward with an expansion where do we get the funding?

Thanks to all of you our Lord continues to provide. I pray that you had an enjoyable Christmas season and are looking forward to what this year will bring as much as I.

In the Spirit of Christ,
Dave Hoffmeyer for the
Stewardship & Finance Committee

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021



JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

Ann Johnson - 4th
Nancy Norwood - 6th
Mary Arnold - 7th
Pastor Dave Dorst - 7th
Pat Byrnes - 10th
Charlie Ward - 13th
Wallace Hoffman - 16th
Jim Wertley - 19th
Dorothy Rode - 21st
Mollie Brewer - 25th
Wally Klee, Sr. - 25th

Women's Bible Study

Monday, January 11th from 1:00pm - 2:30pm

Relationships According to Jesus

Jesus said the entire Bible can be summed up in two commandments: Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself. But in our fallen, broken world relationships are difficult, complicated, sometimes a mystery. We need Jesus' practical wisdom and encouragement along with the perfect example of His life, to learn about how to love the Lord our God, one another and many others God brings into our lives. Join us in this amazing study!



ELDERS

Leading. Shepherding. Teaching.

John Fraser
Larry Hochhalter
Jack Homoney
Wally Klee, Sr.
Kris Ogden
Marvin Pool
Shelby Reed
Al Rode, Jr.
Rick Rosenkrans
Jim Teets



The Last Friday Women's Breakfast
is scheduled for
January 29th at 8:30am
at Blooms in Leesburg

All-Church Prayer

January 7th & 21st
1:00PM - 2:00PM

We would love to hear all of your prayer requests. You can email them to GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com or call the office at (352) 552-0052.

Widow's Luncheon



The Widow's Luncheon
is scheduled for
Thursday, January 21st
at 11:30am. It will be at Bel Glade
Country Club. If you wish to carpool,
please meet at the church by 11:10am.

Please let Sue know by
Sunday, January 17th
if you are attending.

Cindy Semenik and Bill Hall



Cindy Semenik and her husband Bill Hall live in Hawthorne in Leesburg. Cindy was born in Denver, Colorado, with a brother John, who is an accomplished cellist and high school English teacher and a sister Merrie, an Episcopal Priest. She was a computer software teacher at her local Community College. Cindy's younger years were spent in crippling back pain and surgeries that did help for a time, but her teaching career was very hard on her. She married Dan, a Marketing Manager for Chevrolet, in 1990. They attended a Lutheran Church in Denver where Cindy became a Stephen Leader and taught others to become Stephen Ministers- what a great ministry! They moved to Florida to be near Dan's mother when his dad died in 2001.

In 2007, Dan died after a massive stroke at the age of 63. God led Cindy to a Lutheran Church in Mt. Dora. On November 30, 2010 while attending an Alpha Course, she was miraculously healed of her pain and was so overjoyed that she became a Alpha Course leader. She then took a diakonia course where she studied theology for two years to become a Deacon, but never proceeded with an ordination. She started a diakonia school in The Villages. She also took two semesters of CPE to become a Chaplain and has been a volunteer Chaplain for the Lake County Sheriff Department, Cornerstone Hospice and is still a volunteer Chaplain for UF Hospital of Leesburg.

While she was trying to make sense of her insecure future here in Florida, after Dan died, it was suggested by a grief counselor that she might feel better if she had a gun: this sounded absurd at the time, but somehow God knew what he was doing when she was introduced to firearms. She found out that she loved shooting. So as God often does, in 2015 He introduced her to someone who was more of a gun expert than she and in 2016 she married her husband Bill Hall. Since then, they have become NRA and USCCA instructors and teach others how to exercise their 2nd Amendment Rights. They also do consulting work for churches that need to enhance their Safety Teams. She says Bill is the perfect guy for her... he also cooks!

After her deacon and chaplaincy training, she floundered trying to find a church that would support her strong faith and keep her fed with the Word of God. Grace EPC finally feeds her appetite for continuing education of the Word and for the feeling of the love of Christ in action. She sees our church continuing to grow and meeting the needs of many others as they will return to God in droves...as soon as this country gets straightened out. Oh yes, don't get her started on where this country is going. She is the original conspiracy theorist! But she lets us in on a secret.... in the end--God wins!



Heaven's Rewards

By Elder Pat Byrnes

In my article last month, I finished with a reminder of the reward Paul identifies in 1st Thessalonians, the *Crown of Joyfulness*, for our good works of evangelism and disciple making. Pastor Dave also reminded us in his teaching last Sunday that the Bible describes rewards for many things and surprisingly quite often. I won't write out the verses because of space limitations but you can find rewards offered in Ruth 2:12, 2nd Chronicles 15:7, Psalm 58:11, Jeremiah 31:16, Matthew 5:11-12, Matthew 16:27, Mark 9:41, 1st Corinthians 3:14, Colossians 2:18 (NKJV), Colossians 3:24, and Revelation 22:12. God Himself promised a great reward to Abraham in Genesis 15:1. I don't think this is an exhaustive list but should serve to make the point... rewards are indeed Biblical.

Continued on next page

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As to what rewards might consist of, Paul's letters identify **crowns** as awards for meritorious service to the Lord and His church. In addition to the *Crown of Joyfulness* referenced above, Paul and Peter identify at least four others.

1. The *Victor's Crown* portrayed in 1st Corinthians 9:25-27 as the prize for being victorious, having “*run the good race*”.
2. The *Crown of Righteousness* as described in 2nd Timothy 4:8 for those who have a longing for the Lord Jesus and who watch for His return... faithfully awaiting the Kingdom.
3. The *Crown of Life* for endurance through trials, testing, and temptation is identified in two places. First by James (verse 1:12) for the ones who endure temptation; “*For when he has been approved, he will receive the Crown of Life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him*”. Similarly, Jesus, speaking to the Church in Smyrna (Rev. 2:12), offers the Crown of Life to those who endure all manner of testing... “*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the Crown of Life*”.
4. The *Crown of Glory*, the final crown in the line-up, is identified by Peter (1st Peter 5:1-4) and is reserved for faithful leaders, pastors, teachers, and shepherds of the people of God.

In his book Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven, Dr. David Jeremiah devoted an entire chapter to the topic of rewards which he titled Heaven's Oscars. That chapter is the source of the information I have shared with you above. In it, Dr. Jeremiah points out the natural reluctance we have for contemplating awards for our service. After all, he asks, “why should we need the motivation of a reward to serve the Lord? Let's serve the Lord because we love Him, not in order to receive a reward.” To a new Christian, rewards might sound like a “works” theology. But, he reminds us... “We are not saved **by** good works, but we are saved **to do** good works. We don't perform good works in order **to be** saved, but because **we are** saved. Our rewards will be based on the faithfulness and attitudes with which we fulfill those good works God has prepared (Ephesians 2:10) for us **to do** following our salvation.”

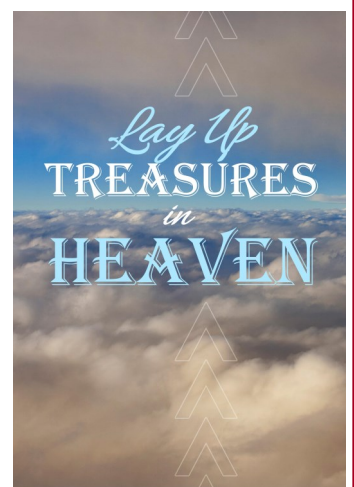
Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians (5:10) promised that we will all stand before the judgement seat of Christ to receive our just reward(s). We see this again in Revelation chapter 11 at the blowing of the seventh trumpet. Verse 18 contains these words... “*and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great...*”. Some have compared Christ's judgement seat to essentially an awards ceremony.

But, you say, what are we going to do in heaven walking around with a crown (or many crowns) on our heads? Seems like a method of boasting doesn't it? But we know (Ephesians 2:9) that no one will be able to boast except to boast in the Lord (2nd Corinthians 10:17).

For a thought about whether crowns are just a metaphor and what these crowns might be useful for, let's look for a minute at the scene described by the Apostle John in Revelation chapter 4. John is ushered into the throne room of heaven and vividly describes the throne, the One seated on the throne, and what was all around the throne. Verse 4, describes twenty four elders, *clothed in white garments, with **golden crowns** upon their heads*. Verse 10 tells us what they did with their crowns... worshipping God, “*they cast their crowns before the throne*”. I love the hymn Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. The second stanza includes the words “*casting down their golden crowns upon the glassy sea*”... an obvious and beautiful reference to Rev. 4:10.

Another favorite hymn is Rock of Ages which includes the words “nothing in my hand I bring, only to the cross I cling”. We don't think of it too much but when we are resurrected, we will have absolutely nothing with us. None of our favorite keepsakes, none of our wealth, **no gift for the King... nothing**. Ahhhh, but guess what... upon arrival, you and I will be awarded with a crown or perhaps many crowns and voila! We won't be so empty handed after all. We will each have something to cast at the feet of Him who was, is, and evermore shall be and first gave us the gift of eternal life and the greatest of all rewards... being in the eternal presence of the Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

How fitting that even the gifts to give Him in heavenly worship are provided by Him who creates and provides everything for His glory! Not just the eventual crowns but the spiritual gifts needed to carry out the works He has called us to. Praying that we use our gifts wisely and fully to His glory. Praying we all receive many crowns.



Welcome to a New Year!

A lot of people are glad to see the end of the year past and they welcome a New Year ahead? The year past was full of untold expectations like the coronavirus, travel restrictions, mask wearing, home quarantines, business closures and yes untold deaths. It is our prayer that God will place a halt on the pandemic and all that it brought with it. We pray that the New Year 2021 will be a safe harbor from the storms of 2020.

I remember a New Year 20 years ago that was full of worry, stress, anxiety and fears for people the world over. This time it wasn't a virus but the turning over of the calendar into a new century. There were predictions of planes falling from the sky, bank closures, fuel shortages, business shut-downs and many feared deaths. Computers were not programmed for a new century and the prediction was that they would turn themselves off and whatever program or machine they were running (including medical devices) would simply stop. What were we going to do? What could we do? Would the world come to an end on New Years 2000? A few people from the church I was pastoring came to me with a special request. "Pastor, do you think that we could have a little service on New Year's Eve and pray that all would go well in the New Year?" We held our service; we prayed, we sang a few hymns and a message of hope from God's Word was shared with all who were present. Did God answer our prayer? Jill, her parents and I watched New Year's celebrations on TV at the stroke of midnight. We noticed that the lights stayed on in China when the clock ticked 12:01 AM 2000 and concluded that hours later when the New Year arrived in North America that we should be OK! That morning my old phone fax machine hummed as it sent out and received faxes as it had for years!

Yes, God answered our prayers on New Year's Eve in 1999 and I firmly believe that God will hear our prayers this day and that He will lead his children safely into 2021. Remember God's Word from Proverbs 3:5-6.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.

Pastor John Fraser



Kicking off the New Year in the Apostles Creed The Firm Foundation

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Jan 3rd | God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth |
| Jan 10th | Jesus Christ, His Only Son, Our Lord |
| Jan 17th | Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered Under Pontius Pilate, Crucified, Dead and Buried, He Descended into Hell |
| Jan 24th | The Third Day He Arose Again From the Dead |
| Jan 31st | He Ascended into Heaven, From Thence He Shall Come to Judge the Quick and the Dead |



Movies with
a Message

Movies with a Message!

Join us on Thursday, January 28th at 1:30 to watch a great movie and hear an awesome message afterwards from Pastor Dave and Josh!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 10:00am Worship	4 6:30pm Small Group with Bob Schielke <i>Ann Johnson Birthday</i>	5 8:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast at Perkins	6 4:30pm Choir <i>Nancy Norwood Birthday</i>	7 1:00~2:00 All Church Prayer Meeting <i>Mary Arnold Pastor Dave Dorst Birthdays</i>	8 1:00~2:00 All Church Prayer Meeting <i>Mary Arnold Pastor Dave Dorst Birthdays</i>	9 10:00am All Church Prayer Meeting <i>Mary Arnold Pastor Dave Dorst Birthdays</i>
10 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School <i>Pat Byrnes Birthday</i>	11 1:00 ~ 2:30PM Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Small Group with Bob Schielke 6:30pm Klee Monday Small Group	12 8:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast at Perkins 6:30pm Klee Tuesday Small Group	13 4:30pm Choir <i>Charlie Ward Birthday</i>	14 10:00am Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting 10:30am Small Group Study in Plantation	15 10:00am Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting 10:30am Small Group Study in Plantation	16 <i>Wallace Hoffman Birthday</i>
17 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	18 1:00 ~ 2:30PM Women's Bible Study Tea Room 6:30pm Small Group with Bob Schielke	19 8:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast at Perkins 10:00am Session Meeting <i>Jim Wertley Birthday</i>	20 4:30pm Choir	21 1:00~2:00 All Church Prayer Meeting 11:30am Widow's Luncheon <i>Dorothy Rode</i>	22 1:00~2:00 All Church Prayer Meeting 11:30am Widow's Luncheon <i>Dorothy Rode</i>	23 1:00~2:00 All Church Prayer Meeting 11:30am Widow's Luncheon <i>Dorothy Rode</i>
24 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School	25 1:00 ~ 2:30PM Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Small Group with Bob Schielke 6:30pm Klee Mon Sm Grp <i>Mollie Brewer Wally Klee, Sr. Birthdays</i>	26 8:00am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast at Perkins 6:30pm Klee Tuesday Small Group	27 4:30pm Choir	28 10:30am Small Group Study in Plantation 1:30pm Movies with a Message!	29 8:30am Last Friday Women's Breakfast	30 8:30am Last Friday Women's Breakfast
31 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School						

A few notes from your friendly neighborhood Administrator...



New Directory Coming Soon: We will be working on printing a new directory very soon! Please check out the printed directory copy on Mandy's desk and make sure your information is correct! Please also make sure we have a current photo of you so we can see all of your great smiles!! If you need a new picture taken please let Mandy know and we will get it taken for you!

Annual Statements: We are planning on having the Annual Statements for the 2020 giving year ready in January. It will reflect all giving from January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020. Please make sure we have your most current address so your statement is sent correctly. If you'd prefer an email copy of your statement, please let Mandy know by January 10th.

Prayer Requests: We would love to hear from you and pray for you! Please email or call the church office and let us know how we can pray for you and come alongside you and pray for your loved ones.

Techy Tips



Did you know...

Batteries have a "life?" You should only charge your laptop, tablet, or phone when the battery is running low on charge. Charging your device all day can reduce the battery life.

Freebies online are real! While in the real world most things are not free, on the Internet there are many things that are free. There are many "apps" (applications) that you can download and use for free. However, there are some that cost so be sure to check first.

Reviews galore online! If you want to buy a particular product or use a certain service, like staying at a certain hotel or visiting a new restaurant, online reviews are very helpful. You can simply Google the product or service and locate reviews regarding them to help you make an informed decision. There are also "groups" on Facebook you can be a part of and ask their opinions or join the "Nextdoor" community in your area through the "Nextdoor" app.

Need Help? Don't be afraid to ask for help! If you have questions or need help with something that you're not sure of, you can ask Mandy. She may not have the answer, but can possibly help get you in the direction of someone who might be able to help you out.

What is a Church Volunteer Safety Team?

By Cindy Semenik

Churches can be considered vulnerable to many types of spontaneous problems. Some of those include parishioner sudden illnesses, minor fires (which of course unchecked can become worse), weather disasters and even, heaven forbid, hate crimes. All of the above listed problems are rare, but if not handled quickly and with forethought and planning can quickly become worse to disastrous... this is why we need a trained team to confidently handle any size problem to keep it from escalating to a tragedy. Can you volunteer?

You may be surprised to learn that to be on this team, we do not need a lot of people with firearms; other positions are just as important, if not more so – like observing surroundings and helping people get to safety! The “jobs” of helping people to the nearest exits saves more lives than any other job, and any able-bodied person can do this! And, because of parishioner illness, medical knowledge is also very helpful.

But, if you own a firearm and wish to help protect our church with it you should only consider that with much, much prayer, realizing that it is a special calling by God to risk your life in that way for others. Many will pray with you for guidance in this area.

This congregation is the best and stands as a shining example of the Love of Christ! My wish is to help protect us by planning and preparing for any eventuality. Join our Church Safety Team and we will pray and learn together how best to secure and protect this awesome congregation.



Wait on the Lord

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.” Psalm 37:7

I think that 2020 has been a year in which everyone’s patience has been tested and perhaps that testing isn’t quite over. Do we have the stamina to continue? Let’s resolve to stand firm with patience, rejoicing in God’s provision and goodness to us. We have food, clothing and shelter. We gather together each Lord’s day to worship Him and sing His praises and He has kept us well — He has blessed us. Let’s remember to thank Him, and also if we can help to relieve the suffering of others to offer our service. Let’s be the answer to someone’s prayer if at all possible. Stand firm in faith, thanking God that we are His adopted children and one day we will see Him as He is.

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

Happy New Year Grace!

Blessings,
Jill Fraser





What's going on? Updates from the Christian Care Center

Thank you to all who joined in the Christmas Stroll at the Christian Care Center on December 11th. Grace EPC had a great representation. We came away with a better understanding of the work being done in our community. One very sad note is that the Children's Shelter was taken from this campus. They are in need of volunteers to help in all areas of their 8 ministries. There is a need for teachers, counselors, or even helping with crafts for children, and in many other areas. If you feel God calling you to help with this ministry, you can call **859-814-8733** to apply.

Please enjoy this sweet story shared from the Christian Care Center:

“The Needy Giving to the Needy”

“Do you have any perfume or a hairbrush?” was the question asked to Wanda Kohn, Director of our Pregnancy & Family Care Center, by a homeless person who had not been able to bathe for several days. Before Wanda could respond, another woman taking her parenting class heard the request. This other woman quickly reached in her purse and pulled out a bottle of perfume and gave it to her, along with a snack of popcorn. Later, when Wanda thanked her for her kind and selfless gesture, she replied, “I have been in the same situation many times. I was stubborn for years, and I'm just blessed God is giving me the strength to get through my own issues so I can be the mother I've wanted to be.” Seeing the needy minister to each other is one of the most humbling experiences to behold.



The Christian Care Center shares great stories like this and all of the amazing things that happen with their ministry on their blog. You can sign up to receive emails with their blog stories here:

ChristianCareCenter.org/blog



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: Graceepchurch.org

Like us on Facebook: Grace EPC

All activities are tentative and subject to change.

SUNDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Worship
- 11:15 AM ~ Sunday School (starting 1/10)

MONDAYS:

- 1:00 PM ~ Women's Bible Study (starting 1/11) ~ Tea Room
- 6:30 PM ~ Small Group Bible Study ~ Schielke
- 6:30 PM ~ Klee Monday Small Group (1/11 & 1/25)

TUESDAYS:

- 8:00 AM ~ Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Perkins
- 10:00 AM ~ Session Meeting (1/19)
- 6:30 PM ~ Klee Tuesday Small Group (1/12 & 1/26)

WEDNESDAYS:

- 4:30 PM ~ Choir Practice

THURSDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting (1/14)
- 10:30 AM ~ Small Group Bible Study - Plantation (1/14 & 1/28)
- 1:00 PM ~ All Church Prayer - (1/7 & 1/21)
- 11:30 AM ~ Widow's Luncheon (1/21) ~ Bel Glade Country Club

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (1/29) at Blooms in Leesburg

SATURDAYS:

- 9:00 AM ~ "Un" Decorating the Church (1/2)