



“Grace EPC and the Coronavirus Pandemic”



Volume 10, Issue 8

August 2021

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Churches were not immune from the impact of this virus, but God certainly has blessed Grace EPC during these past 16 months with not one (that I'm aware of) within our immediate body of believers coming down with Covid-19. Social distancing led to the need to be creative with our worship and so at the beginning we experimented with videoing a Worship Service and sharing them by way of the internet to the congregation. This was made possible because of our technology gifted administrator and husband, Mandy and Wally Klee Jr. God's timing is always perfect with Him bringing them to Grace. All of our other small groups and gatherings had to be canceled. And praise God, some of our congregation members felt called to keep in touch with others by using their phones and computers throughout this time as well. Gradually as people have been vaccinated, our programs started to open back up slowly at first but now are almost all open once again. Even our seating within our sanctuary is now almost as it was pre-Covid and Sunday morning refreshments are now available once again.

The pandemic forced us out of our building for a time, but in doing so, it has also better prepared us for whatever now may come our way. We have become stronger spiritually and more adaptable as we are Spirit-led to continue to move Grace forward as God leads.

In sharing all of this there has been a group of God's called servants that have been working diligently in the background. This group has been praying, meeting, planning, and relying on God's spirit to direct how Grace should continue throughout this pandemic. They haven't asked for any credit or reward, but I think that the time has come they should be recognized. Grace EPC's "Ruling Elders" have been working non-stop throughout these past 16 months to make certain that all of the people within Grace's community have been taken care of spiritually and physically as best as could be achieved all for the glory of God.

Within our EPC's Book of Government it states in chapter 9:

The office of.... "Ruling Elder".... is not an indication of special pre-eminence by those who hold them, but rather indicates a call to service, to ministry, to special discipleship, and the evidencing of the fruit of the Spirit in every part of life.

In the Old Testament, the office of Elder was established for the oversight of the Church. In the New Testament, this office is continued. Those who fill this office today for governing the Church are called Ruling Elders. Chosen by the people of a local church, these Ruling Elders are to watch over the spiritual welfare of that congregation..... The Ruling Elder shares authority with the Teaching Elder (Pastor) in all of the courts of the Church, in both rights and duties. It is the first duty of the Ruling Elder to represent the mind of Christ, as that person understands it, in the various courts of the Church.



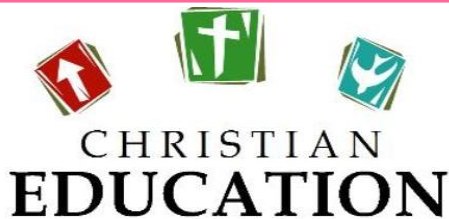
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God's "Ruling Elders" at Grace certainly represent what He intended a "Ruling Elder" is to be, and I thank God for each of them.

The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 5:17: *"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching."*

Our "Ruling Elders" at Grace worked extremely hard throughout the Pandemic, and still are, all for the Glory of God, so that the preaching and teaching of the Word of God could continue, under difficult circumstances throughout this pandemic. We shouldn't take their efforts for granted, first thanking God for calling them, and also by thanking them personally!

In Christ,
Pastor Rick Rosenkrans



By Elder Linda Pool

YES WE ALL AGREE

Oh Lord, we agree,
In the power and strength of unity
That You're worthy, worthy of our praise.

Oh Lord, we agree,
With our whole hearts we proclaim to Thee
That you are the King, the only Lord,
The only God who's holy.

We agree that
You're worthy of all our praise.
---Tommy Walker

For what clues do you look to determine whether the people you meet are believers? Key words? A church name? Christian jewelry?

The apostle John had a much clearer criterion. John knew that all the peripheral issues aren't nearly as important as this: What do people think about Jesus? "If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God"(1 John 4:15). When we know that someone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, that is the only issue that really matters. Opinions may differ on a whole range of other issues, but Christians who agree on Jesus can sing with one voice "in the power and strength of unity."

Unity is powerful. Unified, the church can prevail; torn by division, it will fall (Luke 11:17). No wonder Jesus prayed so sincerely for His followers to be one. When we let our differences divide us, we forget who our real enemy is and start attacking each other.

How silly when no one is perfect and perfectly correct. Praise God, we don't depend on that! The gospel is not about who is better or more correct, but about grace and about Jesus. God works for us and in us despite our faults and shortcomings, and, in His great mercy, He continues to work through us. Let us rejoice in our Savior, humbly joining with others who affirm Christ as Savior, with our whole hearts proclaiming Him worthy of our praise.

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. John 17: 20b-22

PRAYER: Ask God to see your oneness in Christ with other believers.

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



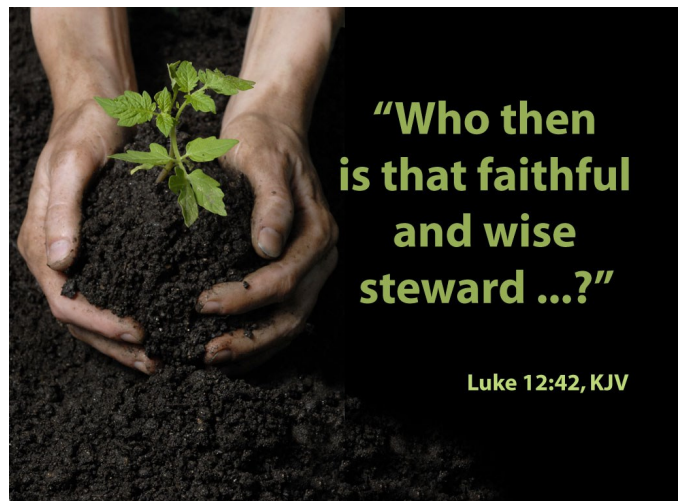
This month I want to expound a little about an article that I read a short while ago. The article dealt with wealth, our perspective regarding it, and the fact that having wealth provided freedom. That freedom, according to the author, wasn't about being able to

buy more "stuff," but rather being free to pursue dreams or higher goals. It dealt with not having to worry about how the bills were going to be paid each month or whether there would be enough left to pay the dentist if you developed a toothache. The article emphasized the proposition that being free of those mundane concerns allows one to instead pursue loftier goals. I mention this because this is the position we should be pursuing for our church. We should all be praying about our future and asking for the wisdom to discern where our Lord wants this church to go. In addition, we should be focused on the influence our church can have in the community, and how much we as a church can contribute for the support of missions and missionaries that will carry the message of Christ Jesus into the rest of the world.

Many years ago, St Augustine said "Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others." With this in mind, I encourage each of you to consider contributing to an endowment for our church, which can be done in many ways. For example, the church can be added as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy, or a provision can be added to your will that remembers the church with a specified amount or a percentage of your estate. Taking any of these actions will help to ensure the continued growth of the church, its missions and its facilities. At the same time it will help us continue our efforts to expand our reach in our local community and find ways to help fund missions that will carry the GOOD NEWS into all the world. After all, that is what our Lord Jesus has charged us to do. And, by doing this you will know that you have done what you can to ensure that God's message will continue to spread.

In the past I have often written about our growth, so it should not be a surprise when I again bring up the growth that we are seeing in this area. I will continue to encourage each of us to be praying and discussing how we can use our resources to support our growth to help spread our Lord's word in our area. I heard a remark this week that I had not considered but will. It dealt with the property on US27 that the church owns. That property was provided to us for FREE! No one in our church paid anything for it. It was a donation, a gift from a total outsider. The comment that I heard simply suggested that since our Lord provided this to us, we should think that He expects us to use it for His glory. So, prayerfully ask what we can do to ensure that as new people come into our area our church is prepared to greet them and add them to the flock.

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





Dottie Bridges - 3rd
 Connie Deatherage - 7th
 Judy Gertz - 9th
 Lois Bandt Weber - 12th
 Moe Bittle - 16th
 Wally Klee, Jr. - 17th
 Judy Scott - 20th
 Dave Hillhouse - 24th
 Dick Sapp - 26th
 Phil Beahm - 27th
 Kris Ogden - 27th



John & Peggy Ernest - 1st
 Herb & Jackie Nicklas - 3rd
 Marvin & Shirley Robertson - 3rd
 Roger & Jan Bass - 6th
 Al Jr & Rose Rode - 6th
 Denny & Terese Engquist - 11th
 Dave & Geri Hillhouse - 15th
 Wallace & Daisy Hoffman - 18th
 Dave Hoffmeyer & Rosie Hawthorne - 22nd

Sue Hammond would like
 to thank everyone for pray-
 ers during her surgery and
 through her recovery.



The Last Friday Women's Breakfast
 is scheduled for
 August 27th at 8:30am
 at Breakfast Station in Leesburg



All-Church Prayer

August 5th & 19th
 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.



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



The Widow's Group will be
 breaking for summer. The next
 luncheon will be in September.
 Have a great summer and safe
 travels!



Mike & Christine Kowach

Mike and Christine Kowach live in "The Plantation", south of Leesburg. Christine was born in Berwick, PA and lived there most of her life. After high school she married and raised two daughters. She worked as an optician for 28 years. With the passing of her husband, she relocated to Meadville, PA to be closer to her oldest daughter and family.

Mike was born and raised in Warren, Ohio, graduating from Champion High School. He served 4 years in the Navy, spending most of his time in Virginia Beach, VA. After returning to Ohio, he worked for General Motors for 30 years. He always wanted to live in a better climate.

After meeting Chris, they came to Florida for the winter and loved it. They put their homes up for sale and moved to "The Plantation". They married on 11/11/11, a date Chris picked hoping it would be an easy to remember date! They enjoy playing golf, workouts at Planet Fitness and day trips around Florida.

They are "foodies" and have been to "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives," in at least 8 states! They are very happy to be attending Grace EPC. Mike says "WOW! the ministers and the congregation have been great. We feel so welcome". They strongly hope and pray the church continues to grow and prosper.



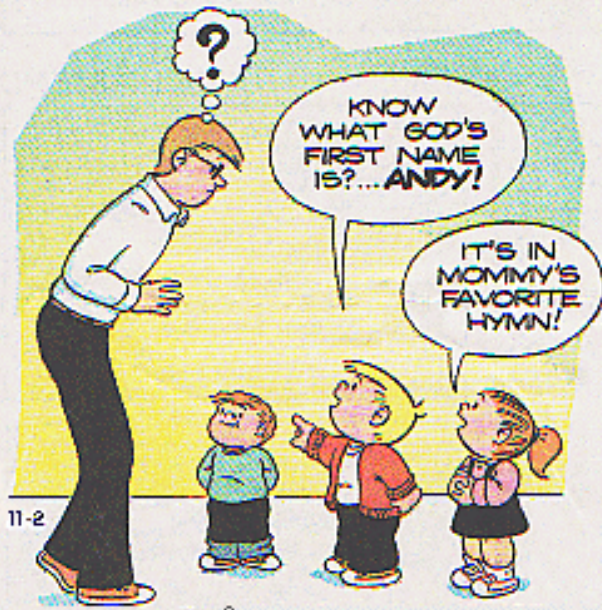
Kris Ogden would like to give many thanks to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the lovely prayer quilt she received after her recent illness. The quilt is beautiful and a reminder of all the prayer warriors who are praying for her and to also for her to pray for others. She is blessed to see God's presence in her healing and is thankful.

Just a little fun...

B T W E J O F U E M A C O W X A L V L H D T Y Z
 Q N R O Y K Z T L L T T E H P O R P W F M Z F K
 L B Q T Z O S O T U G I L O J U C R X V A Q P Z
 Z U V E H L U X S F H U S B A N D S P S W C T E
 G O R N C G Q O I H V C G M I N I S T R Y T U E
 A K C I I X I M P T P E Q D L W A L E Z Z U R A
 J G J R P T U L E I A T U M L Z M E B H J Y A E
 D E L T S O P A Z A U E L Z E P G T R S M M R M
 Q S S C M A E H D F L A B I U S E T P T E E L E
 I R A O S Y E K M M I C B Q P V N E E V F U F U
 O C I D R B E O R Q N H E B R X T R O F A Y J V
 D Z N E Q Y C I O S E E E R M G I L U S J M H P
 L R T H Y A Y A E B H R X N Z S L S B Y Q M U O
 M F S E T O Y R R P G F H J X M E K V Y E G O D
 Y V T O C A D D D M H W H O M W W P E J V L D S
 T I I T U X V A Z V O E V W N O H R U E B X G E
 Y X E T C Y I I G K Q R S I S Q R I Q A R M T V
 Q C H H C H Q F D E L X I I V Y Z S P K O G N I
 E O Z Y Q R E E Y T I N U A A Z Q O Y M Y J M W
 R J J V Z W G N I P P I U Q E N E N E R W K M B
 Z O C W F Y Y G O L O E H T J E S E P H E S U S
 L N I N O I T C I D E N E B O M A R Z B G O C V
 U A H F Y R O T S A P P D I S E I X W Z V F D Y
 E B Z T N E M A T S E T C P H B F S O B T U F J

Armor	Light	Unity	Faithful
Love	Teacher	Pastor	Prophet
Ministry	Theology	Doctrine	Benediction
Pauline	Jew	Gentile	Suffer
Prisoner	Letter	Greek	Author
Epistle	Equipping	Wives	Husbands
Apostle	Saul	Saints	Ephesus
Ephesians	Testament		

THE FAMILY CIRCUS™

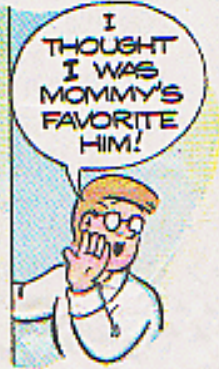


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"IN THE GARDEN" by C.A. MILLS

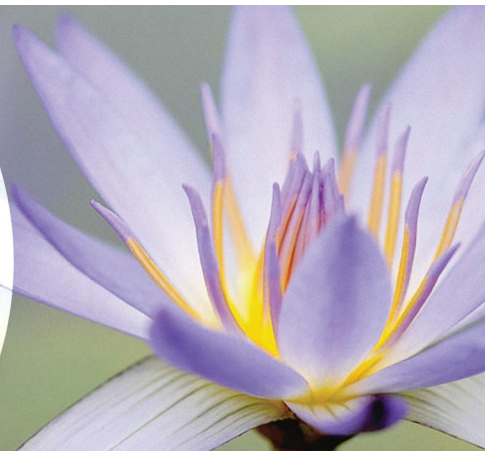
By BIL KEANE



JEFF and BIL KEANE

BE ALERT
AND ALWAYS
KEEP ON PRAYING
FOR ALL THE
LORD'S PEOPLE.

EPHESIANS 6:18, NIV



August Sermon Series

The Christian's Wealth, Work, and Warfare

Aug 1st The Road to Damascus

Aug 8th Imitators of God Walk in Love

Aug 15th Wives and Husbands

Aug 22nd Attitude Toward Authority

Aug 29th Spiritual Warfare

Journey Through Ephesians



**Therefore
be imitators
of God,
as beloved
children ...**

Ephesians 5:1, NRSV

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:15am Sunday School John & Peggy Ernest Anniversary	2	3 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study Dottie Bridges Birthday Herb & Jackie Nicklas Marvin & Shirley Robertson	4	5 1:00pm All Church Prayer Meeting	6 Roger & Jan Bass Al & Rose Rode Anniversaries	7 Connie Deatherage Birthday
8 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship	9 6:30pm Howey Small Group Judy Gertz Birthday	10 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Howey Small Group	11 2:00pm Villages Small Group Denny & Terese Engquist Anniversary	12 10:00am Finance Committee Meeting Lois Weber Birthday	13	14
15 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship Dave & Geri Hillhouse Anniversary	16 Moe Birtle Birthday	17 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study 10:00am Session Meeting Wally Klee, Jr. Birthday	18 Wallace & Daisy Hoffman Anniversary	19 1:00pm All Church Prayer Meeting	20 Judy Scott Birthday	21
22 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship Dave Hoffmeyer & Rosie Hawthorne Anniversary	23 6:30pm Howey Small Group	24 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Howey Small Group Dave Hillhouse Birthday	25 2:00pm Villages Small Group	26 Dick Sapp Birthday	27 8:30am Last Friday Women's Breakfast Phil Beahm Kris Ogden Birthdays	28
29 9:30am Coffee & Fellowship 10:00am Worship	30	31 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study				

Notes from your friendly neighborhood Administrator...



Flyers for Community News Boards: Want to get the word out about Grace? Grow the Kingdom? If your community allows postings on their news boards, we can put together a flyer telling your neighbors about Grace. Just see Mandy if you would like a flyer for your community.

Operation Christmas Child (aka the ShoeBoxes): Don't forget we are still collecting for our ShoeBoxes for the children. We are mostly needing now for ages 5-14 both boys and girls, clothing items, hygiene items, and school supplies. You can bring your items in now so we can sort them and see where we need more help, or you can bring them in October when we have our "Packing Party." If you are planning to participate, but are waiting to bring your items in, please let Mandy know so that we can make sure we have enough ShoeBoxes when packing day arrives. **SAVE THE DATE!!!** The **Packing Party** will be on **Saturday, October 9th** starting at 10:00am until we are finished. Join us for Packing, Prayer, and Pizza!!!!

Don't forget to check out the new website: www.GraceEPC.church

Safety Team Update

We had an awesome CPR/AED class with a fantastic instructor! If this class, or being on the Safety Team is something you are interested in, please let Cindy Semenik know!





Good News Jail & Prison Ministry: Updates and Prayers

Volunteers Engaged: As COVID-required distancing subsides, most correctional facilities are planning for volunteers to return. Please pray with us that a) effective volunteers will, in fact, return and b) they will continue to have a profound impact for Christ upon the lives of men, women, and children behind bars.



Travel and Logistics International—Area Directors: Traveling restrictions vary day by day and country by country. Our four Area Directors need to be able to travel among their charges in order to assess, encourage, equip, and train. The COVID restrictions make planning difficult because no one knows when passage will be permitted or when it will suddenly be halted. Pray for wisdom and open doors for our Area Directors to be able to move about effectively.

Trauma Healing Expansion: With doors reopening—opportunities are emerging for Good News to share the Trauma Healing program with other ministries. Training events are being planned in West Virginia, Michigan, California, and Louisiana. Additional plans are being made with two national organizations to equip staff and volunteers. Please be praying for this powerful opportunity to bring the healing power of the Word of God to hurting men and women.



Praise Protection from COVID: There remain a few outbreaks from COVID in jails and prisons here and around the world but the Lord has miraculously protected us throughout the pandemic. Join us in thanking the Lord for His hand upon our chaplains and staff.

A Testimony of Prayer (from Chaplain Russ Isler in Montgomery County, MD): Awhile back I was shopping in a major department store when I noticed a young man who seemed to be looking at me as he followed me throughout the store. He asked my name and did I ever work at the jail. I told him yes and that I was the Chaplain. He replied, "I thought so. I just wanted to thank you for being such a support to me when my father died a few years ago. Not only did you encourage me but your prayer helped me stay on the right road. My wife and family are still doing well. Thank you for being there when I needed you. God bless you." Sometimes all it takes is a prayer.

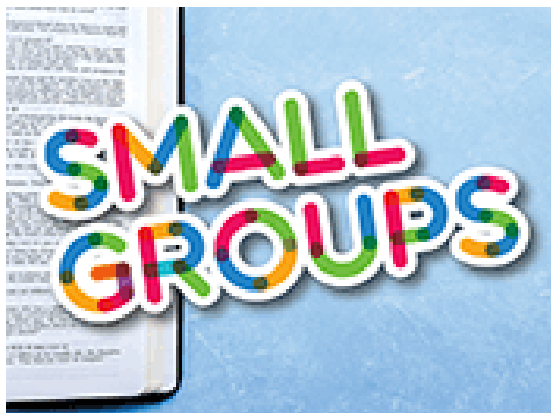
Prayer Shawl Ministry Update

Matthew 25:34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'"

To all who contribute to the prayer shawl ministry, thank you very much. After a very different year and a half, I hope we can all meet in person this coming September. Please continue your quilting, knitting and crocheting! We do have a need for lapghans suited for men-- please keep that in mind. We seem to have lots of baby items as well as those for women.

For any newcomers to our Church if you would like to participate in this ministry you are most welcome. We make lapghans to deliver to people in need. Request cards for a lapghan are in the chair pockets in the sanctuary. Please speak to me or call me with questions. (Cell: 352-617-4297)

Blessings to you all,
Jill Fraser



Interested in joining a Small Group in your area? We would love to have you join us! We currently have small groups in Royal Highlands, Plantation, Howey in the Hills, and in the Villages. For more information call our office at 352-552-0052.

Or if you've been thinking about having a small group in your neighborhood, let's talk!



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:

- 9:30 AM ~ Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:00 AM ~ Worship
- *The last Sunday School will be on 8/1 and will resume on 9/12*

MONDAYS:

- 6:30 PM ~ Howey Monday Small Group (8/9 & 8/23)

TUESDAYS:

- 8:00 AM ~ Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Perkins
- 10:00 AM ~ Session Meeting (8/17)
- 6:30 PM ~ Howey Tuesday Small Group (8/10 & 8/24)

WEDNESDAYS:

- 2:00 PM ~ Villages Small Group (8/11 & 8/25)
- 4:30 PM ~ *No choir for the months of July and August*

THURSDAYS:

- 10:00 AM ~ Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting (8/12)
- 1:00 PM ~ All Church Prayer - (8/5 & 8/19)

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (8/27) ~ *Breakfast Station in Leesburg*