

## MAY PASTOR'S PEN

“What I’ve Learned Over the Past Fifty Years—Part Three”

Beloved Members and Friends of Grace EPC,

This is my final column reflecting on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination to the gospel ministry. Here are seven more important truths the Lord has taught me over those years:

1. People thrive with affirmation, stagnate without it and shrivel up under criticism. We should be lavish and specific in our praise of others (Romans 12:10). Specificity equals sincerity (Proverbs 11:25, 25:11). Many people move to the sidelines of the church or drop out of ministry entirely due to lack of affirmation. They conclude that they’re either not doing a good job or that their work doesn’t make a difference.

2. Most of our fears are the result of lack of trust in God (I John 4:18). Don’t allow fear to keep you from trying great things (II Timothy 1:7).

3. Don’t compare yourself to others; it’s always a matter of “apples and oranges.” Each of us is a unique personality with unique gifts. There is a unique call on each person’s life that is different than anyone else. Rejoice in God’s creation, don’t wish you were someone or something else (I Corinthians 4:7, 12:7).

4. Life isn’t fair and people will often treat you worse than they should (Ecclesiastes 7:21, 22). Don’t waste time whining about it; God’s verdict is what counts (I Corinthians 13: 4-7, 13).

5. Burn the good candles, use the nice sheets, set the table with the good dishes and silver. Don’t just wait for “special occasions”—today is special (Psalm 118: 24).

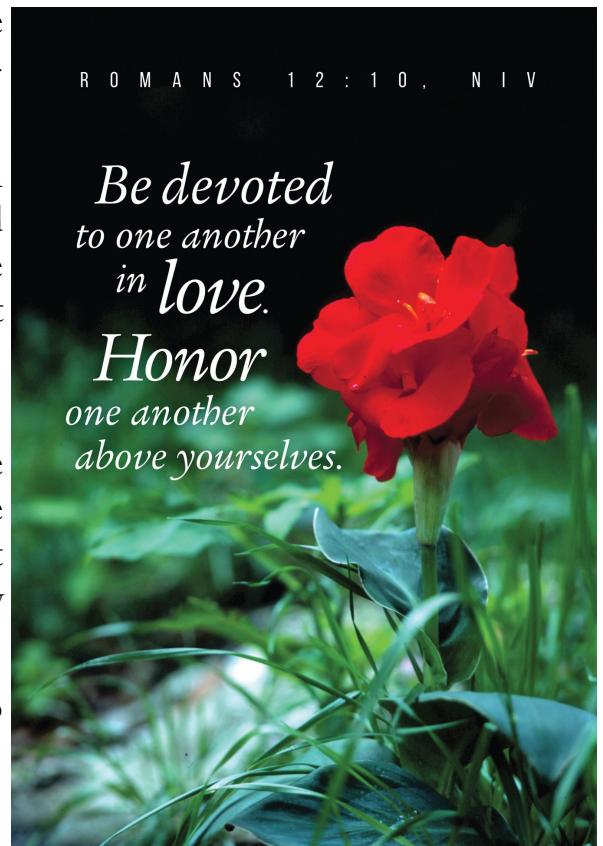
6. Be generous with money. Use it to bless others (Luke 16: 9).



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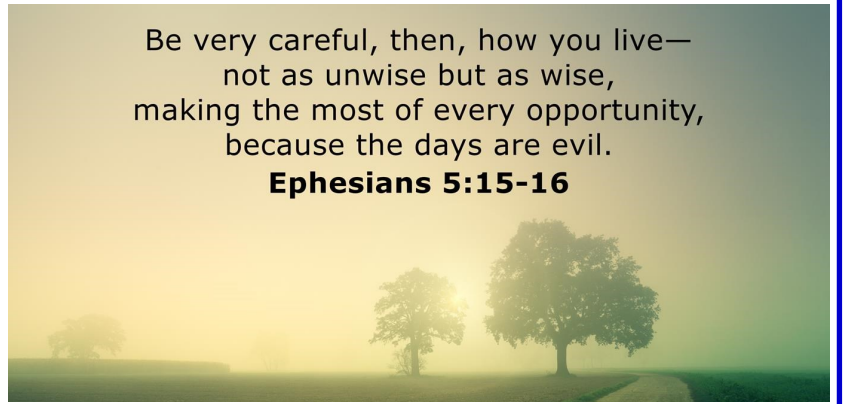
7. It's fine to relax and have down time, but time is a precious resource and we should make the most of the limited time God has given us. Invest your time in ways that will make a difference for eternity (Ephesians 5: 16).

I hope at least one of these ideas is helpful to you. I'd love to have some feedback on these columns.

Big love in Jesus,  
Pastor Dave

Be very careful, then, how you live—  
not as unwise but as wise,  
making the most of every opportunity,  
because the days are evil.

**Ephesians 5:15-16**



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By Elder Linda Pool

## ALL HAIL KING JESUS

*All hail King Jesus, all hail Emmanuel,  
King of kings, Lord of lords,  
Bright Morning Star. Throughout all eternity,  
I'm going to praise Him, and forevermore  
I will reign with Him.  
-DAVID MOODY*

We praise our Emmanuel, "God with us," for who He is and for what He has done for us. And we will sing throughout eternity, for we will reign with Him forever. As Paul wrote to Timothy, "Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him" (2Timothy 2:11,12).

Imagine eternity with Christ! Our lives on this earth are merely a blip compared to eternity. The hardships we face here are a moment in time, preparing us to reign with our Lord forever.

Paul knew that those who endured hardships for the gospel would one day reign with Christ, and so he encouraged Timothy to persevere. As a prisoner in chains, Paul could have resented his limitations. Not only did he endure the hardship, he didn't allow it to stop him from fulfilling what God had called him to do. Paul redirected his energies into mentoring Timothy, trusting that God's plan was bigger than his circumstances. His faith in God fueled his endurance.

We can have this same faith, a faith that lifts us above complaining about our lives and helps us embrace the opportunities in front of us. We can endure hardships when we remember that eternity is just around the corner, and we will be reigning with our Lord forever.

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. -- ECCLESIASTES 3:11*

Prayer: Thank God for the promise of eternity. Ask Him to prepare you for the glorious future with Him.

From: "*Songs 4 Worship presents OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART.*"



Can you believe it is May already and 2022 is one third gone. Time is steadily marching on, and we must take full advantage of what we have left. Everywhere I look I see signs of growth. As you travel this area start looking beyond what faces the road you are on and see what is happening behind it.

Our mission is to bring others to Christ and to do that we must attract them to our facility, our activities, and our services. We must get serious about planning our growth and then executing that plan. It is my opinion that our church is on the right path. I think back over the past several years and remember that we were once two church groups that had each left much larger churches to form our own in order to get back to the teachings of the Bible. Then after a couple of years we learned about each other and ultimately joined together. I also remember reading an article during that period that was written by a Methodist minister who was involved in several small church mergers. The only part that I recall was his statement that when two churches of 50 join together the result is usually one church of 50. So, when that did not happen to us, I was prayerfully thankful. I also remember the process of acquiring our property on US27. Again, a small group of us found that, made what we thought was a ridiculously low offer for it and had it accepted. Then knowing that our church did not have the funds or the financial history to pursue a loan we came up with a plan to ask church members to invest in it and allow time for the church to grow to the point of being able to purchase it. That also worked much better than any of us could have expected when a member found an outsider that purchased the property and then donated it to the church. Wow! Then we had an offer to purchase our current facility and again there was a large gift from the outside that made that possible. Because I believe that when you are doing what God wants you to do He will help you, I believe that we are on the right path.

I also remember moving to this area many years ago and starting a new phase of my life. Part of that was actively seeking a church home and I believe that many of the new folks that will be coming here will be doing the same. So, will we be ready and waiting for them or will we still be debating what we should do next? Do we have the faith needed to actively pursue the path that our Lord has laid out for us? I have a great idea. Many of us give in support of our church the same amount on a regular basis. How about starting now, we each increase that gift by 10% and designate that for the building fund?

Now for my last thought. I read an article on stewardship within the church and the author presented the idea that stewards should be reviewing the church's expenses and expenditures. The article then went on to explain that process in excruciating detail. While reading that I kept wondering when he was going to suggest that the reason for doing this was to ensure that funding for outreach was always maximized. Again, it is my belief that the primary purpose of a church is to bring the unchurched in. So, in our case the Stewardship and Finance Committee reviews the income and expenditures of the church to help ensure that there are funds available for helping others while showing them who and where we are. Also, there is always room for more of you to join this group. The only requirement is a strong desire to ensure that what we do is directed toward our primary goal of expanding His Kingdom.

See you at worship,  
Dave Hoffmeyer for Stewardship & Finance





Sally Peck—3rd  
 Rose Rode—11th  
 Cindy Semenik-Hall—14th  
 Roger Bass—17th  
 Linda Klee—19th  
 Jeanette Rosenkrans—21st  
 Chris Kowach—23rd  
 Diane Lamping—30th



John & Louise Romano—3rd  
 Roy & Robin Pauley—5th  
 Larry Hochhalter & Pam Dryer—21st  
 Wally Sr. & Linda Klee—21st  
 Pastor Rick & Jeanette Rosenkrans—29th



Pastor Dave Dorst  
 Pastor John Fraser  
 Pastor Rick Rosenkrans  
 Bill Frakes (2024)  
 Jack Homoney (2023)  
 Wally Klee, Sr. (2023)  
 Kris Ogden (2024)  
 Marvin Pool (2023)  
 Shelby Reed (2024)  
 Al Rode, Jr. (2023)  
 Jim Teets (2024)



Last Friday  
 Women's  
 Breakfast

May 27th at 8:30am  
 at Breakfast Station in  
 Leesburg



**Prayer Time with Pastor John**  
 May 5th & 19th at 1:00PM

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



Widow's Luncheon  
 Thursday, May 19th  
 11:30am at San Jose's on Highway 27 in Leesburg  
 Please let Sue know if you are planning to attend by  
 Sunday, May 15th



## Paul & Linda Chermak

Paul and Linda Chermak live in The Plantation, Leesburg.

Paul was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He graduated high school in Oregon, Illinois, earned his BA at Central College, Pella, Iowa and his Masters from N. Illinois University. Linda was born in Rockford, Illinois, graduated high school in Byron, Illinois and Sterling Illinois Beauty School. Paul and Linda met at altar in Ebenezer Reformed Church in 1963. (They were setting up for VBS and Linda, who lived nearby was recruited by Paul's little brother to bring over some supplies. The rest is history!) They were married in 1967 at same altar by Paul's father who was minister there.

Paul and Linda have two children: Kristina, who is single and lives in The Plantation and David, who lives in Portland, Oregon with wife Jamie and 4 children. Linda worked as a beautician for several years and then sold Tupperware for 28 years. Paul taught middle school from 1967-2000, taking 2 years ,68-70, when drafted into the army. He worked summers and vacations for Global Van Lines. He also had a painting and remodeling business with a friend from 1971 -2020.

Paul and Linda would visit Linda's mother in Florida at Christmas and Easter breaks. The first time they washed the car on New Year's Eve in t-shirt and shorts they knew! They bought a house in Zephyrhills in 1999 and retired in 2000, spending winters there for 21 years. Because of her job, their daughter moved from Zephyrhills to Leesburg, so they followed buying a house in March of 2021.

Linda's hobbies are tennis, dancing, Swedish weaving and jigsaw puzzles. Paul's hobbies are music (playing the trumpet and singing), playing tennis, and dancing. Paul played in an oldies band that for years entertained in nursing homes until Covid stopped that. He pitched fast pitch softball for many years in his younger era.

Paul and Linda find Grace's great theology totally paralleling where they came from in Reformed Church in America's Calvinism, and great pastoral team with the 3 pastors coordinating effort; very friendly congregation that immediately impressed them as they visited. They came to Grace first and looked no further when they moved here. They hope for building and expansion to take place in the future.



We hope you have a wonderful and blessed Mother's Day!



## What is “required” for Evangelism?

As we go forward in our walk with Christ, we should always be praying for opportunities to share the Gospel. We should also stay strong in our own spiritual walk to be in tune with Christ and be familiar with the Word and His character. Following is a “checklist” article written by Mickey Connolly that is worth reading and keeping handy to read it often to remember that we are always being watched and to be in a mindset of what our job is for the Lord.

### ***Minimum Daily Requirements for Evangelism***

I have always had, a Love/Hate relationship with evangelism – I love the concept, I would love to be successful, I would love for it to be easy and natural, mostly I would love to see people saved and added to local churches. I don’t think any Christian or local church will ever be completely joyful and fulfilled unless passionately involved in evangelism and seeing people saved. I believe God created us to be that way because we are created after His image and He is that way. I believe the joy and fulfillment we will experience is the very joy and fulfillment God experiences.

But, I often hate my resume’. I never feel like I witness enough (even though I can’t even say what enough is), as a result, there is no area of my life I more regularly feel guilt. And when I try I often feel inadequate and anxious. At times, I would like to ignore the entire subject (make it go away!) but I know that isn’t an option because this is something that God has clearly called every Christian to – can anyone relate?

So doing nothing isn’t an option but what am I to do? What does it actually look like for the ordinary Christian to evangelize? So let me just give you 5 simple things that every Christian can do to be involved in the church’s mission to preach the gospel to the lost. What I call – Minimum Daily Requirements (MDA) for Evangelism.

### **Be conscious that you are on a mission**

All the gospels end with a commission to mission. Acts begins with a commission. The best known of these commissioning statements is...Matt. 28:18-20: “And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

The commission begins with a mandate to evangelism. The process of making disciples starts with disciples going to tell unbelievers the good news of what Jesus has done to save them from their sins. As missionary disciples, we must find ways to remind ourselves daily that there are mission opportunities all around us and that we need to be consciously looking for them.

CHESTER and TIMMIS (Total Church, 63) – **“Most gospel ministry involves ordinary people doing ordinary things with gospel intentionality.”**

*Continued on next page...*

## Pray for the lost and for opportunities to share the gospel

1 Tim. 2:1-4: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people...this is good and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Praying for the lost is an easy way to remind yourself daily that you are on a mission, plus, I believe these are prayers that God will answer. Pray for opportunities. Pray for the Holy Spirit to grant you boldness. And most of all pray for those people in your life that you long to see saved – those who are close to you but far from God.

## Be friendly and engaging

John 4:35: “lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest.”

We all face the temptation to go through life with our heads down. Evangelism opportunities may arise from simply being nice to people. Saying hi. Engaging them in conversation. Introducing yourself to your neighbor. Talking to your co-workers, service workers, etc.

This simple friendliness may open opportunities for further conversations, to invite someone over, or to be invited over or to talk about something important someday. Remember, Jesus was a friend of sinners.

## Let people know that you are a Christian

I'm not suggesting telling everyone you meet – “say, by the way, I'm a Christian.” But there are many ways to talk about your church, the Bible, Christian relationships, etc. For example, how often does someone ask - what did you do this weekend?

Once people know you are a Christian they will start looking at you differently, observing you, give you a chance to break stereotypes, and you will be surprised how people may seek you out when they have questions or problems.


Share a tract, your story, the gospel as the opportunity arises. Actually sharing the gospel is the goal. All the above positions you to do so. But if the opportunity arises are you prepared?

1 Peter 3:15: “Always being prepared to make a defense (NIV - to give an answer) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”

Being a witness requires some work on your part. Could you simply and accurately share the gospel? Can you explain simply why a person needs to be saved; how the gospel saves and how one is called to respond? Can you explain simply your story?

~Mickey Connolly, June 6, 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><b>Communion Sunday</b></p> <p>9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee &amp; Fellowship 10:30am Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study <b>Sally Peck Birthday</b> <b>John &amp; Loise Romano Anniversary</b></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John <b>National Day of Prayer</b> <b>Roy &amp; Robin Pauley Anniversary</b></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee &amp; Fellowship 10:30am Worship</p> <p><b>Mother's Day</b></p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm Royal Harbor Small Group</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>2:30pm Villages Small Group 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal <b>Rose Rode Birthday</b></p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>10:00am Finance Committee Meeting</b></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><b>Cindy Semenik-Hall Birthday</b></p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee &amp; Fellowship 10:30am Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study <b>10:00am Session Meeting</b> <b>Roger Bass Birthday</b></p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>11:30am Widow's Luncheon</b> 1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John <b>Linda Klee Birthday</b></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><b>Jeanette Rosenkrans Birthday</b> <b>Larry Hochhalter &amp; Pam Dryer Anniversary</b> <b>Wally &amp; Linda Klee Anniversary</b></p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee &amp; Fellowship 10:30am Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group 6:30pm Royal Harbor Small Group <b>Chris Kowach Birthday</b></p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>2:30pm Villages Small Group 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:30am Plantation Small Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p><b>8:30am Last Friday Women's Breakfast</b></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee &amp; Fellowship 10:30am Worship</p> <p><b>Pastor Rick &amp; Jeanette Rosenkrans Anniversary</b></p>	<p>30</p>  <p><b>memorial DAY</b> <b>Diane Lamping Birthday</b></p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study</p>				



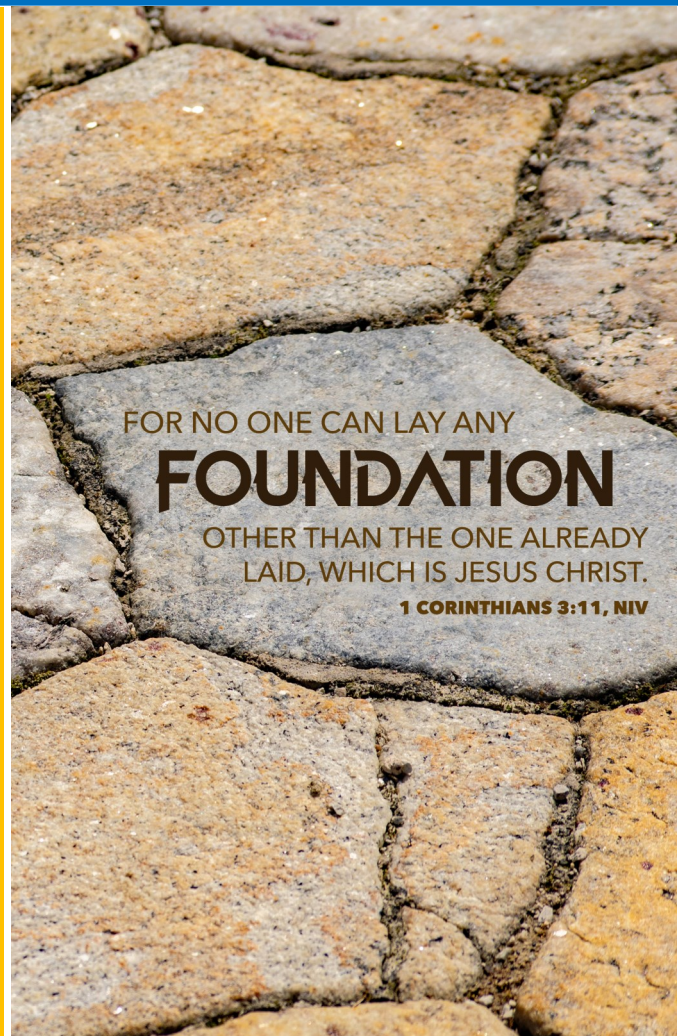
The very first Access-Life Spring Fling was so much fun! Here is a picture of some of the fun we had. Our local event was in Eustis and we hope you will check out future events!

*You can check out a larger print of the picture on our Missions board in the narthex.*



## May Sermon Schedule Corinthian Correspondence

- May 1st** Thank God For the Church
- May 8th** Christ Is Not Divided
- May 15th** Wise Guys Finish Last
- May 22nd** How to Judge Up
- May 29th** The Second Judgment



## Christian Care Center Blog: A Trip to the Park Brings Healing

*“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones” ~ Proverbs 17:22*



When clients first enter the program at the Christian Care Center Men’s Residence, they come broken and crushed. They are disappointed in themselves, often full of regrets, shame and guilt. As they go through the classes in our program, they are reintroduced to some of their old hurts and pains. Like the scripture says, it can get to a point where one can feel the pain all the way in his bones. This is good and needed for recovery, but it’s not the only thing needed. As the scripture also says, a joyful heart is good medicine.

Recently, we were blessed with a volunteer named Dale Thomason who was thinking outside the box. He wanted to be able to bring the men some medicine away from the center by getting them outside in the sun, enjoying life. So, every week he piles the men into our van and takes them down to Pear Park to walk some of the many trails and to play pickleball. Being outside, away from the center, allows the men to relax and focus more on the blessings God has given us rather than just the hurts we have experienced. It reminds the men of what it felt like to just enjoy the moment. Where many might see a trip to the park as just that, a trip to the park, for our men it is good medicine.



A joyful heart brings healing, it brings confidence, and it brings a sense of gratitude which is exactly what our hearts need to recover from not only our addictions but our pains and hurts that brought us there. It took one volunteer thinking outside the box to bring joy to these men’s hearts – what can you bring to offer healing?

If you would like to partner with the Men’s Residence by prayer, financially, or by volunteering please email [Jamie@christiancarecenter.org](mailto:Jamie@christiancarecenter.org) to find out how.



**KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.**

## Spiritual Gifts

*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone."*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-6*

We are talking about spiritual gifts in the Sunday School class and learning what gifts the Lord has endowed to us individually. But before we think about us, have we thought about the incredible gifts God has already given us?

Joy (1 Thessalonians 1:6)

Freedom (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Peace (John 14:27)

Wisdom (James 1:5)

That's just to name a few. God gives Himself to us—His greatest gift! He empowers us with gifts to use in service to Him and to help those within the household of faith as well as those who are not.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is blessed to have giving, talented women who create wonderful lapghans and quilts. Also, they knit and crochet pocket crosses which fit in a purse or pocket and they also knit and crochet baby blankets. We have already given lapghans to Cornerstone Hospice and hope to make another donation in the fall to Cornerstone at their Villages location. Some of us have also taken up the challenge to make washcloths to put in the Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, which will go out in the fall as well.

Another amazing item, made and donated by one of our flock, are angel bracelets for women in crisis. I thank the Lord for these women who are using their enjoyment of sewing, knitting, crocheting, and jewelry making for the comfort of others.

Do you know someone who would be blessed by any of these items? Just fill out the card in the backs of the chairs and drop it in the offering plate, or you can just ask someone.

We are all given talents or special abilities, but as Christians are we using them to honor and glorify our Lord and Savior in service and love to others?

Blessings,  
Jill Fraser





**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](mailto:graceepclesburg@gmail.com)**

**Website: [GraceEPC.church](http://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:**

- 6:30 PM ~ Royal Highlands Small Group
- 6:30 PM ~ Royal Harbor Small Group (5/9 & 5/23)

**TUESDAYS:**

- 8:00 AM ~ Men's Bible Study & Breakfast @ Perkins
- 10:00 AM ~ Session Meeting (5/17)

**WEDNESDAYS:**

- 2:00 PM ~ Villages Small Group (5/11 & 5/25)
- 4:30 PM ~ Choir Practice (No practice on 5/4)

**THURSDAYS:**

- 10:00 AM ~ Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting (5/12)
- 10:30 AM ~ Plantation Small Group (5/12 & 5/26)
- 11:30 AM ~ Widow's Luncheon (5/19) ~ *San Jose's*
- 1:00 PM ~ Prayer Time with Pastor John - (5/5 & 5/19)

**FRIDAYS:**

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (5/27) ~ *The Breakfast Station in Leesburg*