



Volume 11, Issue 10

October 2022

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## OCTOBER PASTOR'S PEN

"The Best Is Yet To Be!"

Beloved Members and Friends of Grace EPC,

It is hard for me to believe that it's been five years since Grace EPC came into being. The time has really flown by! It was so clearly the Lord's work that the union of two congregations took place so seamlessly. I had been warned by a friend that church mergers (a business term I don't like!) almost never work. He said, "After a year, one plus one equals one," meaning that a year after the merger the size of the congregation will be the same as before the merger, because many people will leave. That never happened at Grace and we should thank the Prince of Peace for the wonderful relationships he built between folks from the two churches. In fact, I think most folks no longer think about which of the two churches someone belonged to previously. We are truly one in Christ.

It would take far too long for me to recite all of the wonderful things that have happened over the past five years, but I want to mention just a few:

1) We owe a debt of gratitude to two elders who have, sadly moved away: Denny Engquist and Jim Reasor who were instrumental in effecting the union of the two congregations.

2) From the start, the music ministry has been a community of love. Shirley Hamblen and Beverly Sapp were a Dynamic Duo, but when Shirley passed and Pastor John remarried and left, God provided in earnest (sorry!) with Peggy, who combines with Beverly to provide music that lifts our hearts in praise each Lord's Day. We're blessed to have both!

3) Shortly after the union, we lost a marvelous Church Administrator in Lyn Baxter. We struggled for a short while and then God provided Amazing Amanda. When I said in a recent sermon, "The church will do fine after I retire, but if Mandy left, we would be devastated," nobody disagreed! She is the Gracious Glue that holds Grace together and keeps us connected.

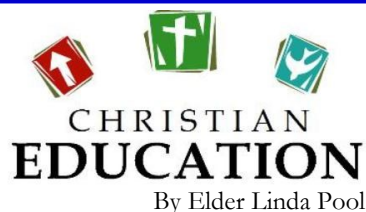
4) As I approached fifty years as an ordained teaching elder, I realized that my health and energy were nowhere near what they used to be. God made it clear that I needed to share the pastoral ministry at Grace and He provided John and Rick, who have both done a fabulous job. As Paul wrote to the Philippians, I say to Rick and John, "I thank my God in every remembrance of you...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." I pray each day for our search committee to find another partner for our dear brothers, but I'm confident that the church is in good hands until they do.



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Pastor Rick and the Evangelism Team have put together two wonderful events to celebrate our anniversary, a Birthday Party on Saturday, Oct. 1 with live music and delicious Mystic Ice Cream, from 2-4 p.m., and then our annual Potluck the next day immediately after worship. I'm excited about both events and really look forward to them. I hope you will plan to attend both and join in the joy. Bring a friend!

Big love in Jesus,  
Pastor Dave



## MAJESTY

Majesty, worship His majesty,  
Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority,  
Flow from His throne  
Unto His own,  
His anthem raise.

---Jack Hayford

Among its many components, worship includes an attentive and extended meditation on God's attributes, such as patience, love, holiness, and justice. We understand these characteristics because they have been described and demonstrated in God's Word and because we find them dimly echoed in ourselves.

The word *majesty* describes a reflected part of God's nature that emphasizes how different our Creator is from us. The Authorized Version uses the word twenty-seven times to convey words that can also be translated excellence, greatness, and honor. Majesty is not a quality of God that we observe primarily with our senses, but with our spirit.

Majesty helps narrow our attention from worship as a general attitude to worship as a specific awareness of one overwhelming fact about God--His divine, royal position.

Even if we can't define majesty, the setting in the chorus allows us to grasp the meaning. Words like *glory*, *honor*, *praise*, *kingdom authority*, and *glorify* all point to Jesus' exalted position and role. The word *majesty* remains part of our worship vocabulary because we worship the King of kings. Even, and perhaps especially, among people who no longer use royalty as their social order, *majesty* helps describe one of those qualities of God we are not charged to imitate, but to deeply appreciate.

*The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength. The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.* PSALM 93:1

**PRAYER:** Alter the text of "Majesty" to personalize the song and turn it into a first-person expression of worship to Jesus. Experiment in prayer, using words related to royalty (like throne, crown, scepter, majesty, kingdom) to highlight and think about the unique and overwhelming privilege to know and be loved by the King of kings.

From: *Open the Eyes of My Heart, Daily Devotions From the Greatest Praise and Worship Songs of all Time*





## **Evangelism Task Force**

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

### **Witnessing vs. Evangelism**

Having defined the gospel as the message that proclaims the arrival of God's blessed kingdom and the means of citizenship in it by faith in Christ alone, we can now move on to the broader biblical teaching on what it means to proclaim this message to all creation. As we will see, all believers are called to bear witness to the truth of Jesus Christ.

First, we should consider the distinction between witnessing and evangelism. Essentially, witnessing is a broad category of which evangelism is a subset. Biblically speaking, the task of bearing witness is to make visible what is otherwise invisible to us. Our task as Christians is to show forth the reality of God's blessed reign. We are to bear witness to the invisible kingdom of God and make it visible by testifying to its existence in a variety of different ways.

Bearing witness to the reality of God's kingdom includes telling the story of Jesus and calling people to repent and trust in Him—evangelism—but that does not exhaust the ways we bear witness to our Lord's saving reign. For example, the love we show to other believers is a powerful testimony to the rule of Jesus our King. When we love one another in the church, we show that we belong to Christ, who pours His love into our hearts (John 13:34–35). Another way we witness to the kingdom of God is through our celebration of the Lord's Supper. Strictly speaking, the Lord's Supper is not an exercise in evangelism, though it visibly portrays some of the content we preach in evangelism. As often as we eat the bread and drink the cup, we show forth the Lord's death until He comes (1 Cor. 11:26).

We should note two things at this point. First, that we will be witnesses to Christ and His kingdom is not in doubt. Today's passage records Jesus' final words to His followers before His ascension, and He says, matter-of-factly, that those who serve Him will be His witnesses. We will either be good witnesses or poor witnesses, but we will certainly be witnesses. It is inherent to being a Christian.

Second, knowing the distinction between witnessing and evangelism keeps us from confusing the two. Giving our testimony of how God saved us and is blessing us is a good thing, but it is not evangelism. Living in holiness witnesses to the work of Christ's Spirit, but it is not evangelism. Evangelism takes place only when we share the message of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and then call people to trust in Him alone.



### **Coram Deo**

Most of us have likely been told to "preach the gospel at all times; if necessary, use words." That's a well-intentioned but misleading phrase. We have not preached the gospel if all we have done is been kind to others. Kind acts adorn the gospel and show that the One whom we serve is conforming us to His image. But evangelism happens only when we proclaim the message of Jesus and call people to put their faith in Him.

Well, it is now October and the start of the last part of another year. The Stewardship & Finance Committee is working on the budget proposal for next year, while also examining our spending for this year and trying to predict the impact of a new Pastor.

As most of you have probably guessed, preparing to write these articles entails a lot of time reading and many books and articles have provided ideas for themes or subjects. And since I don't have many original thoughts, I am always looking for a prompt. So, this month I stumbled on an article that summarized a book written by a nurse that spent much of her career tending patients during their last days. She shared what those folks told her during that period especially their regrets. What I found interesting was how many she said pointed to money as being a major factor in their regrets. But, it wasn't how much they had but what they had or had not done with it. It seemed that in most cases the regrets were based on not having used their resources for something other than themselves and families. I got the impression, even though it was not specifically stated that the regrets dealt with not leaving a positive legacy for future generations. So, my summation is that we should each find something more lasting than we are that will provide a positive influence on future generations to which we can devote resources so that when our time here ends, we can look back on it and smile, knowing that we leaving this world better than we found it.

That is how I think about our Church. We need to be able to expand so we can provide for those that will follow us here. Currently we have limited space and even though this is still summer, we are getting close to capacity. I know that I harp on this subject, but we have land which is fully paid and in a great location. All we need to do is erect a facility that will allow us to serve those that will be following us. If we don't then who will?

Lastly, our church now has a brokerage account with TD Ameritrade. This is an easy way for someone to make a donation of stocks that have appreciated. The stock can be transferred directly from the owners account to the Church's and the stock's total value on the date of the transfer can then be taken as a deduction. What a great idea! Also, this is the time of year when many of us start to seriously consider our giving and trying to determine whether we have beaten the standard deduction for their taxes. So, as you ponder that question, remember our church, and pray about what you would like to see for the future.

*"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."* – Nelson Henderson

Dave Hoffmeyer ~ Stewardship & Finance

### "What If "at Grace EPC

We all have asked this question at one time or another. Recently, a number of our congregations met to discuss this question here at Grace EPC. With the help of Cindy Semenik's husband, Bill, a security officer who assists organizations with issues surrounding this question, the group met to discuss. The group consisting of the Semeniks, Alice Crotty, Rose Hoxie, Henry Miazga, Bill Frakes and Pastor Rick and Jeanette Rosenkrans met on September 7<sup>th</sup> to ensure that, with the Lord's help, we can answer the "what if" question.

Specific topics were addressed such as 'what if ' someone has a medical emergency during the services? The first action to be taken is to call 911. Do we have trained personnel who can address the problem until emergency personnel arrives? Do we have the basic emergency equipment? What if a sudden storm develops and a tornado warning is sounded, what action needs to be taken? What if a disturbance occurs either within the church or close by?

These are just an example of the questions that were addressed. In each situation, the group addressed the questions of *who* should take action, *what* action should be taken, *where* should the action be taken, *when* it should be taken, *why* it should be taken, and *how* it should be taken. With God's guidance and help, Grace EPC will be prepared to address the question, "What if?"



## Grace Celebrates 5th Birthday!

Tom Edelman—1st	Alice Crotty—21st
Rich Gailey—1st	Joyce Falk—21st
Oswald Lewis—1st	Joe Lamping—22nd
Mary Kinney—2nd	Cheryl Sexton—25th
Bill Hetzer—6th	Dirk Bod—26th
Jill Fraser—8th	Linda Pool—29th
Carol Homoney—9th	Shelby Reed—29th
Marvin Pool—10th	



Joe & Diane Lamping—11th  
Henry & Linda Miazga—16th

*Do you need help with anything?*

*Would you like to be part of a team to help others?*



*Just let us know and we can get you in the right direction!*



**Last  
Friday  
Women's  
Breakfast**

**October 28th at 8:30am  
at Wolfy's in Leesburg**



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)



**Prayer Time with Pastor John**  
**October 6th & 20th**  
**at 1:00pm**

Tell us how we can pray for you!  
GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com  
(352) 552-0052.



The Widow's  
Luncheon will  
be on

**Thursday, October 20th at 11:30am**

*at Takis in Leesburg*

Please let Sue know if you are attending by  
Sunday, October 16th



A graphic showing a spotlight shining on a brick wall. The text "Who's in the spotlight?" is written in a stylized font.

## Who's in the spotlight?

### Henry and Linda Miazga

Linda was born and raised in Flint, Michigan where she attended the local Catholic school, along with her two older brothers. She was head majorette of her high school band, loved dance, and was a dancer with the Flint Ballet Theatre for many years. She became a dispatcher with the Grand Blanc City Police Department near Flint, which lead to her attending police academy and becoming a full fledged police officer with that agency. She worked for several different agencies, but due to health issues, had to leave police work in 1989. She began to develop school safety programs and spent the next 12 years teaching "Officer Linda's School Safety Programs" across Michigan.

Henry, the youngest of three boys, was born in Detroit, Michigan. After high school, where he played hockey, he attended Western Michigan University. He worked as an apprentice pipefitter until called to attend the Michigan State Police Academy. Upon graduation, he worked for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a Conservation Officer for 25 years in various positions. He was a training officer as well as Michigan's lead boating accident investigator, reconstructionist, and expert witness.

Henry and Linda met in 1981 when Henry was dispatched to assist Linda and her sergeant who were in an all-out brawl with two shoplifters. Linda was wrestling with woman that had 10 stolen dresses under her own clothing. When all was settled down, Linda asked Henry to join her for lunch the next day. One thing lead to the another, and they married in 1982.

They have three children; John is a chemical technician that "builds" commercial paint and application processes. Michelle is a medical coder that works for a large hospital group. Scott is a mechanical engineer who spent 16 years working for Honda in Ohio. Just a few days ago Henry and Linda became grandparents for the fourth time. They also have a dog named Chicha, named after Henry's dad's horse. ("Chicha" is eastern European slang for moonshine.)

Linda loves to (finger) paint, and her home is filled with her paintings. Henry's hobbies include boating and home building projects. His favorite time was when he and Linda headed to Ohio where they spent a month working with their youngest son Scott on his new-old fixer-upper home. Henry and Linda are lifelong bikers...as in bicycling, and have done many 20+ mile trips on bicycle trails around central Florida. Bicycling has slowed down since Linda's ankles have deteriorated to the point that makes riding difficult. (A ballet dancers malady.)

We love Grace EPC! As lifelong Catholics, we were invited to attend several different churches by friends. While not specifically looking for another church, we fell for the openness and friendliness of Grace, and our love of The Lord and understanding of the Bible has grown by leaps and bounds. The Pastors are great and we often talk on the way home from church about the sermon. We always comment about the happy sounds coming from the church on our way in. We've made many great friends there, as well.



## What Was the Reformation All About?

~ Ligonier ~

500 years ago, a German monk named Martin Luther started a protest that exploded into a worldwide movement. At that time, Europe lived in the shadow of the Roman Catholic Church. It was more like an empire than a church. It crowned and cast down kings, and used its dominance to keep people in the darkness of superstition. That sounds pretty unfamiliar. But in some ways, Luther's day was very much like our own. Just like today, everyone had an opinion about the Bible even though almost no one had actually read it. Like so many of us, they were trusting the thought-leaders and taste-makers of their day to tell them what was in the Bible and whether or not to believe it. Luther was one of the very few people actually reading the Bible, and what he found was earth-shattering. Even though he was a monk, Luther hated the God of the Bible. But when he studied it, the world around him began to make sense. God made sense. The significance of Jesus became clear to him. He discovered the answer to his deepest question: how could evil be overcome? Specifically, how could his own evil — his own sin — be dealt with? Luther discovered that he couldn't do anything to fix this problem himself. He had to rely on the finished work of Christ alone. Luther had discovered a central truth. It changed his life. It changed the world. The Protestant Reformation was about two things. It was about who can say what's true and it was about how to reconcile who we are with who God is. It recognized that God's Word is the ultimate authority in this world, and that the perfect life and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ are the only answer for evil and the only basis on which sinners can stand before a holy God. The Protestant Reformation is a story of transformation—a transformation from hate to love, from slavery to freedom, and from blind faith to a glorious discovery of the truth in Jesus Christ. Ligonier Ministries exists to cultivate this transformation in a new generation. In a day when few are reading the Bible, and when confusion reigns in the church, we want to help Christians know what they believe, why they believe it, how to live it, and how to share it.



We hope you are able to join us here at Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church on **Sunday, October 30th** for Reformation Sunday. We will be blessed this year by our bagpiper friend, Ken Macklin coming to play again.





## Castro's Mexican Ministry

Our friends at Castro's Mexican Ministry celebrated recently their Mexican night at church. They had fun activities and food that reflected their Mexican heritage and also had a time of reflection thanking God for the freedoms that, as believers, they have in Christ. They also recently had some new members join and are very thankful for the blessings and opportunities to share the gospel with others in their community. Here are a few pictures of their celebration.





# October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2:00pm-4:00pm Grace Birthday Celebration Tom Edelman Rich Gailey Oswald Lewis
2 Communion Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship **Celebration Potluck after Worship Mary Kinney Birthday	3 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group	4 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study	5 9:45am Women's Bible Study 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John Bill Hetzer Birthday	7	8 Jill Fraser Birthday
9 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship Carol Homoney Birthday	10 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group 6:30pm Royal Harbor Small Group Marvin Pool Birthday	11 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study Joe & Diane Lamping Anniversary	12 9:45am Women's Bible Study 2:30pm Villages Small Group 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00am Finance Committee Meeting 10:30am Plantation Small Group	14	15
16 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship Henry & Linda Miazga Anniversary	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 Rehearsal	20 11:30am Widow's Luncheon 1:00pm Prayer Time with Pastor John	21 Alice Grotty Joyce Falk Birthdays	22 Joe Lamping Birthday
23 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship	24 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group 6:30pm Royal Harbor Small Group	25 8:00am Perkins Men's Bible Study Cheryl Sexton Birthday	26 9:45am Women's Bible Study 2:30pm Villages Small Group 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27 10:30am Plantation Small Group	28 8:30am Women's Breakfast	29 Linda Pool Shelby Reed Birthdays
30 Reformation Sunday! 9:00am Sunday School 9:45am Coffee & Fellowship 10:30am Worship	31 6:30pm Royal Highlands Small Group					



## Thank You Grace

I hope I can express my gratitude to all of you who were my saving grace as I went through these last several months. You know how to love and show kindness above and beyond. All of the prayers that were being prayed day after day, the phone calls, the visits, the food, the cards and notes did wonders to keep me going, and Tom so enjoyed them. I am so blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation that shows the love of God to each other. Thank you all,  
*Love Judy*

***There will be a Celebration of Life for Tom on Saturday, November 5th at 11:00am at Grace EPC with a light lunch reception to follow.***

## Calling 4 Volunteers!!

We are seeking 4 volunteers to come clean and care for the inside of our church building.

As we have been getting back to normal and our regular events are all almost back to pre-pandemic mode, Grace has been getting busier and busier.

Mandy could really use the help of individuals or couples. You would only need to clean one day, one week, per month. This way the church would be cleaned each week, but the task would be shared by four individuals or couples.

If you can help or have questions, please contact Mandy.



## October Sermon Schedule

### He Spoke in Parables

- Oct 2nd** Forgiving From the Heart
- Oct 9th** That's Not Fair!
- Oct 16th** A Tale of Two Sons
- Oct 23rd** Terrible Tenants
- Oct 30th** The Wedding Feast  
*\*\*Reformation Sunday*



**For MANY**  
are called,  
**but FEW**  
are chosen.

**Matthew 22:14, NRSV**





**Grace**  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Leesburg, FL

**Happy 5th Birthday!**

*All welcome!*

**Saturday,  
October 1st**  
2:00pm to 4:00pm

**Live Music  
Fun Fellowship  
Mystic Ice  
Cream Truck\***  
\*Ice Cream \$6

## Happy 5th Birthday Grace!!!

*Join us as we celebrate!  
Bring a friend!*

On Sunday, October  
2nd we will also have a  
potluck after worship. It  
will be a weekend of  
celebration!



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

### Blessings from the Prayer Shawl Ministry

*"For he wounds, but he binds up; he shatters, but his hands heal."  
Job 5:18*

Our October prayer shawl recipient is Miss Paulette.

Miss Paulette is in the hospital with a cracked hip. She sent me a video thank you as follows:  
"This is Paulette Spring and I just received the prayer blanket that you sent and I said this is so wonderful and meaningful to me its like you gave me a part of Jesus in heaven".

**Grace EPC Folks, Ladies, and Gentlemen  
also, we have a spot for you on our Prayer  
Shawl Committee.**

Knitters, crocheters, quilters we would love to have you join us. We have boxes of yarn ready to be created into a lapghan. I promise you the rewards are legion. There are not a lot of meetings and no pressure. Thanks for your consideration.

Blessings, The Prayer Shawl Committee:  
Molly Bod, Mary Burton Alice Crotty, Connie Detherage, Gail Edelman, Jill Fraser, Jean Howse-Henke, Lois Schielke, Judy Scott, Shirley Robertson





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

Mailing: P. O. Box 490001

Leesburg, FL 34749

352-552-0052

Rev. Dr. Dave Dorst

Email: [GraceEPCLeesburg@gmail.com](mailto:GraceEPCLeesburg@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
- \*\*\*Potluck after worship on 10/2

**MONDAYS:**

- 6:30 PM ~ Royal Highlands Small Group
- 6:30 PM ~ Royal Harbor Small Group (10/10 & 10/24)

**TUESDAYS:**

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

**WEDNESDAYS:**

- 9:45 AM ~ Women's Bible Study
- 2:30 PM ~ Villages Small Group (10/12 & 10/26)
- 4:30 PM ~ Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAYS:**

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

**FRIDAYS:**

- 8:30 AM ~ Last Friday Women's Breakfast (10/28) ~ *Wolffy's*

**SATURDAYS:**

- 2:00 PM ~ Grace Birthday Celebration (10/1)