

CARRILEA'S CORNER

Dear Grace,

I have a confession to make: I think “discipleship” sounds like a dry, churchy word. At certain points in my life, I’ve associated it with some pretty boring experiences—like when I was a teenager, sitting in a circle passing a Bible around, each of us taking turns reading a line of what felt like gibberish. But at its heart, it’s really just about how we nurture our spirituality—how we grow in faith, how we keep learning, how we live into the way of Jesus. Some of that can happen on our own. But I’m convinced that the most meaningful growth happens in community—when we ask questions together, when we wrestle with ideas, when we show up and shape each other’s faith through shared practice.

That’s why I hope you’ll come this Sunday morning at 10am. The Education Board is hosting a conversation, and we need your input. We want to hear what’s stirring in you—what you long to learn, how you’d like to grow, and what rhythms of discipleship make sense for where we are right now.

After all, this isn’t a program to attend.

This is about being part of Grace.

And part of Grace means shaping how we grow together.

As we continue our Advent theme of Making Room, I’ve been reflecting on a quote that someone shared with me—words from Henri Nouwen that feel especially timely:

“Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place...It is not a method of making our God and our way into the criteria for happiness, but the opening of an opportunity to others to find their God and their way...

Hospitality is... a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free; free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances...Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adopt the lifestyle of the host, but the gift of a chance for the guest to find his own.”

That’s the kind of community I want us to be.

**A place that doesn’t prescribe answers, but makes room for real discovery.
A place where people can grow into their questions, their calling, their own deep belonging.**

**This Sunday is one small but meaningful step in that direction.
Come join us—not just for a conversation, but for the practice of being church together.**

**Gratefully,
Carrilea**

December 7-13, 2025

December Birthdays

6 - John Barnard

6 - Bob Rawls

9 - Cohen Bryce Hayes

19 - Marsha Angell

24 - Lauren Berryhill

26 - Eben Coarsey

27 - Diane Hamby

Anniversary

11 - Jim and Janna Brown

Our Advent offering this year is collecting items for the Homeless served by 5th Street Ministries PATH project.

Food items mostly.

The food should be single serving, not requiring a can opener and preferably finger foods not needing to be heated.

Examples are: Vienna sausages, protein bars, cheese sticks, etc. Cutlery is also helpful.

And as always money donations can be put to use.

***December 14th is our Grace Church Christmas/ 5th Street Resident Staff Potluck. 6 PM**

Bring your favorite dish or 2 to share.

Deacons will provide drinks and bread.

ICM NEEDS ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING!

BUDGET

Needed year to date: \$97,608.00

Received year to date: \$102,600.01

OVER budget: \$4992.01

Weekly needs: \$1,992.00

This Week's Offering: \$905.00



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