

GraceFull Visions

SEPTEMBER 2018

Steering Committee Update

At the Special Congregational Meeting on August 26th, the congregation decided to rescind the decision to commit to starting the new service and in its place authorized the Steering Committee to continue its work to develop a comprehensive plan

for the new service to be considered later, including a description of the service, a publicity plan, property needs, as well as the human and financial resources needed to carry out the plan.

Great progress has already been made in these tasks. The larg-

est remaining task is to identify the costs associated with the parts of the plan that have already been developed.

The Steering Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, September 5th at 6:30 pm to continue its work. We will most likely meet

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Birthdays	5
Worship Leaders	insert
Prayer List	5
Calendar	insert

in the Highlander Room, unless the AC has yet to be fixed. In that case we will meet in the Nursery. Anyone may attend the Steering Committee meetings.

A Big Thank You!

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all Grace Lutheran Church members for your help in raising funds for Sandy Lane School needs. Together we provided 3 tables of yummy baked goods for the

“Bake and Share”. We also gave buckets of school supplies, 49 pair of school shoes, several belts socks, underwear, as well as many items to help the teachers and students have a successful beginning to the new

school year. WE were all doing God’s Work with our Hands! You have once again helped make a difference in the lives of so many families and children at Sandy Lane, and they are grateful! Thanks be to

God for His generosity, to *Thrivent* for seed money, and for your generosity!

- Pam and Dick Landeen and Pastor Lydia (was with us in prayer and spirit due to illness)

Gophers Need Help

Every Friday the Gophers meet to help maintain the inside and outside of the property. This time of the year with the

snowbirds gone and people on vacation, illness, etc. they are really struggling to get things done. There are jobs for both in-

side and outside to do. If you can help for even a few minutes between 7:30 am and 11:00 am

Please call Cliff Bittner 727-771-0684 for more information or just show up in the Fellowship Hall.

From the Stewardship Team

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

Knowing which resources exist is a first step in accessing programs that can benefit our church and community.

One program available to us is, Thrivent Financial's "Action Teams". A brief history of Trivent may be helpful. As Lutheran families settled in the U.S. In earlier times, it was thought that for a family to have "insurance", was to deny faith in God. Still, Lutherans helped Lutherans in matters of health, money, personal tragedy, etc. As thinking progressed, fraternal insurance companies were formed to assist in those areas where families helped families. Two such organizations were, "Aid Association for Lutherans" and "Lutheran Brotherhood". Years later they merged and became "Thrivent Financial for Lutherans", and more recently, "Thrivent Financial", expanded to serve other Christian

denominations.

A "for profit" corporation with similar assets to Thrivent, must pay the government 182.7 million dollars annually in taxes. Because Thrivent Financial is a "not for profit" company, that \$182.7 million must be distributed for charitable causes. "Action Teams" draws from that amount.

The "Action Team" program is devised so that a Thrivent member, (a person who has an IRA, annuity, life insurance, credit union acct., etc.), can write a brief application request, and receive a credit card for \$250. twice a year. The money, (they refer to it as seed money), can be used to fund or partially fund an event for the community, neighborhood meals, church projects, helping a neighbor with repairs or clean up, and a list of about a hundred possible ways to use Action Team money. A stipulation is that the money is not used for typical church budget items such

as, AC repair, plumbing problems, etc. If a congregation with 20 Thrivent members FULLY utilized its Action Team resource, the church and community could benefit by over \$20,000., per year.

Grace Lutheran Church already uses Thrivent resources in a number of ways, including Action Teams for Sandy Lane, "Bake and Share", prayers for the community, and our Easter Egg Hunt, and as good stewards we can further use these programs which the rest of the world might call "freebies".

The website, thrivent.com, has extensive information about all their programs, including associate membership.

Grace's Thrivent representative, Deborah Barnard at (727) 289-5960, our church office or the Thrivent national office at (800) 847-4836, can be of help with questions.

Your Stewardship Team

Elizabeth Circle

The Elizabeth Circle will meet on September 27 1pm-3pm . We meet in the Garden Room and the gate will be open for access. Our study is from the current issue of "Gather" magazine. If you do not receive Gather magazine call Connie

Puls at 446-4091 and she will get the study information to you before the meeting. All women are invited, coffee and desert will be served. If you need a ride call Deacon Connie.

Faith Community Nursing

The Congregation Council approved entering into a partnership with the Faith Community Nursing program of BayCare. Through this program, Grace member Ellen Duncan, a RN, can now provide basic nursing services such as blood pressure checks.

From the Deacon's Desk

A conversation between Deacons Susi and Frank...

S: Hi Frank, how's it going?

F: What? Oh, hi, Susi.

S: You seem distracted. What are you thinking about?

F: Autumn.

S: Autumn?

F: When I lived up North, I used to love this time of year; leaves changing colors, then falling, crisp weather.

S: As a native Floridian, I have never experienced it here, but have seen a bit of that

in Georgia. It is pretty cool.

F: Yes, it is, but then Winter arrives. Cold weather, barren trees. Everything seems gloomy at times.

S: Oh come on now. Spring arrives, bringing freshness and renewed life.

F: You and I are called to do God's will.....

S:as are all people.

F: Yes, but it's hard to figure out what God wants us to do.

S: What do we always say to each other? "Be patient, the Spirit will come to us and

guide us."

F: Yes, you're right, as always.

S: Thank you.

F: Welcome. Do you think Grace Church is in the Autumn of its years?

S: Maybe, but then Spring always comes.

F: But what if Spring doesn't arrive?

S: What do you mean by that?

F: Do you remember the story of Jesus and the fig tree that didn't bear fruit?

(Mark 11: 12-14, Matthew 21: 18-22)

S: Sure. Jesus gets upset, curses the tree so that it will never bear fruit again, causing the tree to wither up. What are you trying to say?

F: I don't know. Maybe Grace already bore all the fruit in God's will for us, and now

God is calling us to "spread out" and help other churches bear fruit.

S: I hope not. The part about Grace not bearing any more fruit.

F: Me too.

S: Like you said, figuring out

God's will is not easy. But how's this? Maybe God is calling us to "spread in".

F: "Spread in"? What do you mean?

S: "Spread in", you know opening our arms super wide to bring others INTO our church. "Spread in" to help us continue to bear fruit, together.

F: Wow, that's pretty good. I believe I am looking forward for Grace's Spring.

S: Me too. All we can do is try our best to do what God is asking of us.

F: Yep, you got that right. Let us be led by the Spirit. See you in church, sister.

S: Amen to that, brother.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them will bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15: 4-5)

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5: 22-23)

RCS Food Pantry

To help eliminate hunger in our community we continue to support RCS but our donations have been declining., Just a few items weekly or monthly will make a big difference in this just cause.

"Cookie Hour" Help Needed

We need help on a regular basis to serve and provide cookies and juice. We already have someone providing homemade cookies and serving one the

third Sundays of the month. If you can volunteer for another week please call the church office at 727-446-5026.

Calling All Artists of Grace

As you know, we now have an Art Gallery in the hallway between the Library and Fellowship Hall.

Currently on display is artwork by Phyllis Dumdie. If you haven't done so yet, please feel free to take a stroll through the Gallery and view the paintings. All pieces are

for sale and if you are interested I purchasing any, please let Phyllis know.

The current display will hang until the first part of September, and we invite anyone who would like to show off their art, (all mediums, including photography) to do so. Or if you know someone

who might like to display. Please contact Connie Puls or Phyllis Dumdie

FINAL NOTE

If you are given the gift of art, it seems only right to share it by displaying, so others can enjoy! DON'T BE SHY! - From Deacon Connie

Adult Study Group

Adult Study – Meets at 9:00 am to 9:45 am on Sunday mornings in the Highlander Room. In September the Adult Study will be continuing the Bible Basics Overview of the Bible starting with the Gospels on Sunday, September 2nd..

Men of Grace

The Men of Grace now meets on the 1st Thursday of the month, still at Sunset Grill in Clearwater. This month's meeting will be at 9am at the Sunset Grille in Clearwater on Thursday, September 6th.

Children's Church

Children's Church is not scheduled to resume until Oct. 7th due to some health factors. Thank you for your patience.

Council Meeting

The next Congregation Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11th at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room..

Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet

The Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet will be held on Saturday, September 22nd at 9 am. The date of the breakfast will be changing to

the 2nd Saturday for each month starting on October 13th. We are also pleased to announce that the Clearwater Family Restaurant will be do-

nating the eggs for the breakfast! **There will be an organizational meeting for the Breakfast after worship on Sunday, September 9th.**

September Book Club

the Book Club has chosen *The Color of Light by Emilie Richards* as it's next book to read for September 5th. This is a fiction book about Pastor Analiese Wagner, a ten year

Pastor and her congregation as they face new ministries. The Book Club will resume meeting in the Garden Room at the usual time of 10:00 am. Hope to see old

and new faces in our Book Club study group.

Contact person: Vicki Eis
Veis49@yahoo.com

September Birthdays

09/03 Rita Burneik
 09/08 Karen Crabbe
 09/13 Gary Neal
 09/17 Cathi Adams
 09/19 Osvaldo Granados
 Yvonne Hauschld
 Daniel Magee
 Pastor Lydia
 Villaneuva

09/20 Jan Cote
 Heather Grote
 09/22 Judy Ishida
 09/24 Miriam Glatting

September Anniversaries

09/23 Barbara & Alan Wong

Prayer Corner

Tuesday Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Group meets at
 11am on Tuesdays in the

Prayer Chapel. Requests for
 prayer can be made using the

Communion Records in the
 bulletin.

Prayer List

Prayers are requested for: Linda Almond, Stephanie Adamitis, Pastor Lou and Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Galen & Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria & Tollie Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Kathleen Wacker, Bill Cutts, Karen Bates, Pam Long, Rev. Lydia Villanueva, Don Eunis, Glen Dumdie, Gladys Calhoun, Lorraine Reinhard, Steve Davis, Kathy Falco, Jill Grote, Pat Hudson, Bonnie Redler, Dianna Frasier, William Mathis, Kathy Leotta, Bryttt Mathis, the family and friends of Trudy Mohrmann, all those still suffering from the impact of natural disasters (especially those in Hawaii), those suffering from violence and terror (especially those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children).

Please Pray for Military Personnel w/Grace connections...

-Marine Lance Corporal
 Heather Burson, granddaugh-
 ter of Anne and Ralph Burson

-Seaman Third Class Kyle
 Wassen, grandson of Connie
 Puls,

-Marc Calhoun, nephew of

Wayne and Yvonne
 Hauschild is in the Air Force

-Aldo Granados, son of Pastor
 Lydia and member of Grace,
 is in the US Army Reserves
 locally.

-Maj. Christopher Conklin, a

chaplain with the USAF, is
 Lorraine Rheinhart's grand-
 son.

-Gabrielle Falco, Pat and To-
 ny's granddaughter, is train-
 ing with the 101st Army Air-
 borne Division.

Grace Lutheran Church
1812 N Highland Ave.
Clearwater FL 33755



1812 N Highland Ave.
Clearwater FL 33755

Phone: 727-446-5026
Email: office@graceclw.com

Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, September 16th
11:30 am

**To consider an unsolicited bid by
another church to buy our
property, and to consider goals
related to a Capital Campaign**