

# GraceFull Visions

FEBRUARY 2020

## From the Deacons' Desk

Frank – Oh, there you are. Susi – What's up?

F – Do you know what month this is?

S – Of course, it's February.

F – And?

S – Washington and Lincoln were born in February.

F – And?

S – And?? Valentine's Day.

F – And, it's my birthday month.

S – And?

F – Every year it's the same. Tons of cards, presents, emails, text messages, the phone ringing off the hook (for you kids, it's like your cell phones constantly vibrating).

S – Don't you think you're exaggerating a bit?

F – Maybe a tad.....But I was thinking, reflecting on some things.

S – Like what?

F – Do you remember in one of our Diakonia classes, our instructor pondered that this "Christianity thing" may be the greatest hoax of all time.

S – Yes, I do, but then he added that too much has happened in his life for him not to believe. That it's all true.

F – I agree with that statement. Not so much as to what has happened to me, but what has NOT happened in my life.

S – How so?

F – I had many "good opportunities" to take the wrong paths in life, but there seemed to be "someone" guiding me toward a different path. A path that you and I wound up taking together.

S – Oh yes, a journey on a path that continues. Did anything happen that helped you in your faith?

F – Nothing dramatic, but there was this. There was a lot going on, family up north, having serious health issues. Wasn't much I could do, except worry, and pray. One time when I was praying, I felt an arm around my shoulder, and a calm came over me. It was like someone saying, "Don't worry, I got it. It's in my hands."

S – Do you think it was the "Big Guy"?

F – I don't know about that, but I do believe it was sign from Him. And the more I've thought about it, it seems throughout my whole

life there was "someone" at my side, especially at the times I did not seem to care, being patient with me as I traveled different roads - the good, and the not so good - nudging me, like I said before, towards this path that we have been traveling together for the last few years..... And what about you, Susi? Have you ever had a sign from God?

S – I don't know, but the more I think about signs, I realize I've had signs all my life – my parents' love, my baptism, confirmation, Luther League, education, my career and the children, my people, my love of nature, my many blessings, and now, my retirement. The "Big Guy" has always been with me.

F – Always?

S – Yes, especially during the many times I sin.

F – You are lucky!

S – God has always been with me, carried my, even when I wasn't aware. God hears my prayers and I will continue to pray for the Spirit to guide me, when I'm confused,

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questioning, struggling with my role, my mission, my gifts.

F – Yea, I now know this too.

S – So it's your birthday this month. Another year older, another year wiser.

F – Another year older, another year my life grows shorter.

S – That's the same for all.

F – Sad, but true. Do you ever think about your life, and how you would re-live your past differently?

S – Sometimes, but not so much. As Rafiki said to Simba, "It doesn't matter! It's in the past, ...which can hurt, but.... You can either run from it, or ....learn from it." The past is the past...

F – Ad we cannot change it. So .....

S – I will try to make a better effort to not

# Mission and Ministry

## Deacons' Desk Continued...

worry about what could or should have been, but try to .....

F – live my remaining years trying to make the “could be” into the “can be”. Does that make sense?

S – Sort of.

F – Time is so precious, no matter how you measure it, by years, months, days...

S – And no matter how long we live, it is still short. Let's pray together.

S & F – Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Right now, this day, help us to live our lives the way you always wanted us to. Send us your Spirit to guide us to not only to better share your good news, BUT also to be part of

it with our loved ones and our “neighbors”! Right now! Amen.

S – So, Mr. February 9th, Happy Birthday!!

F - You remembered!

S – But of course.

- Deacons Susi and Frank

## Souper Bowl Sunday

On Sunday, February 2nd, in honor of the Super Bowl being played between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San

Francisco 49ers, please bring your cans of soup to support the RCS Food Pantry to either worship service that morning.

As an additional friendly reminder, please do not bring in anything in a glass container.

## Haven House of RCS and Kimberly House

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Angel Tree and gift card collection for Kimberly House and Haven House. We collected toys, clothing, books, toiletries, miscellaneous supplies, and \$550 in gift cards. Both organizations were very pleased to receive these gifts. Recently a regular attendee of the Adaptive Service needed

to escape her abusive husband and Haven House took her in. She is doing much better. Your contributions make a real difference in the lives of our community and even congregation.

Haven House is in need of clean pillows and towels. They do not have to be brand new, as long as they are clean.

Through February 9, a bin will be placed in the narthex to receive these items. For any questions, please contact Deacon Iris Saxby or Yvonne Hauschild.

**Thank You** - “Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness. It is greatly appreciated!” - The Haven of RCS

## Grace Gallery Update and News

We continue to display art from Richard Duncan, Phyllis Dumdie, Nancy Small and George Small. We just added some beautiful paintings by

Adrienne Cox. Melanie Wyatt's Butterfly photography is still on display in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in displaying your art,

please contact Phyllis Dumdie or Connie Puls. If you would like to purchase any of the art displayed, please let the artist know. - Phyllis Dumdie

## Faith Community Nursing

Please contact Ellen C. Duncan at any time at 727-940-3024 or Karen Crabbe at 727-647-6271 for information or concerns.

Faith Community Nursing at Grace continues to provide blood pressure checks and

informal consultation at the Community Breakfast, as well as occasionally at other events (such as the Art Festival.)

Also, as a “heads up,” Life-line Screening will be at Grace on Saturday, May 13th.

## Card Ministry Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the Card Ministry Committee. This includes sending greeting cards for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, etc. Stamps will be provided by the office. If you are interested, let Phyllis Dumdie know.



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## Sunday Falco’s Recent Activities

- Continued to work with our various regular property users to ensure a positive experience and timely payment.
- Continued to provide consistent hospitality and also provided set-up for refreshments after both services, and support for Cookie Hour volunteers.
- Worked with Pastor Earnest from the City of Praise International Church to facilitate an usage agreement for his congregation on Sunday and Tuesday evenings.
- Continued to work with cleaning services, including providing extra disinfectant specifically for viral pathogens throughout the property
- Assisted with securing a food truck for the Art Festival
- Updated the Church Website Calendar Daily. Stay Connected!
- Talking with other venues for wedding receptions, etc. (When Grace Lutheran needs to refer to another venue for any reason.)
- Sunday Falco has a list of

musicians, DJs, videographer, photographers and caterers if you need a reference.

Tasks specific to the Adaptive Service (last separate report on this responsibility):

- Spoke with multiple assistant living facilities to set up regular outings to the Adaptive Service.
- Talked extensively with Channel 10 News, who is planning on doing a report on the Adaptive Service in February.

# Regular Event Updates

## Elizabeth Circle

Our Circle will meet on **February 27th** this month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Garden Room. All women are invited to join in and enjoy some coffee and dessert. - Deacon Connie

## Movie Time

Come join us on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the Highlander Room and enjoy an uplifting movie. This event takes place on the first Thursday of each month. Refreshments will be served. - Gary Neal

## Council Meeting

The next Congregation Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13th at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room.

## Confirmation

The next Confirmation class will meet on Sunday, February 16th at 3:00 pm in the Highlander Classroom. Grades 6 and up.

## February Book Club

We will be reading A Little History of the World, by E H Gombrich. We have chosen this non-fiction book for our February 5<sup>th</sup> session. If you want history to come alive, this is the book for you. See you at Book Club at 10:00 AM on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. - Vicki Eis.

## Men of Grace

This month's meeting will be at 9am at the Sunset Grille in Clearwater on **February 6**.

## 12 Steps Tranquil Mind

... is a Women's Closed Step and Big Book study of Alcoholics Anonymous. This means that any woman who is having a problem with alcohol and desires to stop is welcome. We meet on Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Highlander Room.

## Adult Sunday School

A reminder of our Adult Class each Sunday morning on the Old Testament books I

Samuel and II Samuel. We start at 8:45 a.m. each Sunday

in the Highlander Room. Come join us!

## Community Breakfast & Lydia's Closet

Saturday, **February 8th** at 9 am.

Thank you for all you have done for Lydia's Closet. Many have benefitted from your gifts of new and delicately used clothing. Even the toiletries which many of you have given are used in making health kits which we distribute to those in need each month. The recipients have been so grateful for you - people who care enough to help those in need.

We are now asking for men's and women's underwear and tee shirts.

God's work. Our hands. We thank you!

- The Closet Crew

## Young at Heart

The Young at Heart gathering will be at Alfanos on Clearwater/Largo Rd. on Thursday, February 13th. Guests can arrive starting at 11:30 am, and lunch will be served at 12 pm.

## February Birthdays

2/02	Eliezer Granados	2/18	Nova Bickell
2/09	Frank Bencivenga		Julie Stevenson
2/12	Joan Keeton	2/22	Kay Deegan
2/15	Gloria Holtzclaw		Aldo Granados
	Hans Knight	2/23	Jordana Taylor
2/17	Roberta Powell	2/28	Francisco

## Feb. Anniversaries

2/07	Nicholas & Kristine De Trano
2/14	Wayne & Yvonne Hauschild; John and Carolyn DeMoulin

# Prayer Corner

## Tuesday Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Group meets at 11am on Tuesdays in the Prayer Chapel. Submit prayer requests through the Communion Record Sheets.

## Prayer List

**Prayers** are requested for: Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Kathleen Wacker, Karen Bates, Pam Long, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George & Phyllis Clark, Jill Grote, Pastor Bruce Edwards, Tom Stanziano, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Brad Snyder, Iris Valentin, Eliezar Granados, Deacon Connie Puls, Matthew Brumback, Joan Keeton, and those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (especially those threatened by fire in Australia, those in harm's way while serving in the military, and those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children).

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

-Marine Lance Corporal Heather Burson, granddaughter of Anne and Ralph Burson, is stationed in San Diego. She is a mechanic in charge of maintaining aircraft.

-Marc Calhoun, nephew of Wayne and Yvonne Hauschild is in the Air Force. And has been deployed to one of the difficult locations. He is married with four children, and would appreciate your prayer.

-Aldo Granados, son of Pastor Lydia and member of Grace, is in the US Army Reserves locally. He works at Bayfront Health Hospital and attending college. No longer living at home.

-Maj. Christopher Conklin, a chaplain with the USAF, is Lorraine Rheinart's grandson. He had been redeployed to the Middle East.

-Gabrielle Falco, Pat and Tony's granddaughter, was com-

missioned as a lieutenant. in the U.S. Army and accepted at the exceptional Walter Reed Hospital as a medical student.

-USCG Seaman Brennan Wells, Houston TX, nephew of Sunday Falco.

-USCG Seaman Samuel Steward, Grand Isle, LA, nephew of Sunday Falco

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*God's Work. Our Hands.*



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Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

## *Ash Wednesday, February 26th*

*There will be two services of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. The first will be at 10 am, and the second will be at 7 pm, both in the Sanctuary.*