

## Bob Williamson Speaking at Grace

*Sunday, March 17th*

Bob Williamson will be speaking at Grace Mission during both Services on Sunday, March 17th. The early years of his life will remind you so much of many of our brothers and sisters at Grace Mission. But Bob's story is also one of hope and salvation through Christ. You can learn more about his life at [www.miracleonluckiestreet.com/book.php](http://www.miracleonluckiestreet.com/book.php). Make plans to hear Bob's testimony at one of the services at Grace Mission on Sunday, March 17th!

### ***Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon - April 27th***

*Advent Episcopal Church, 12 noon*

"You are An Angel" is our theme this year for our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. We will be sending out invitations and look forward to seeing all of our 'angel' volunteers at the luncheon! Stay tuned for further details. Please let us know if you did not receive an invitation by the end of March! We pray we did not miss anyone but with over 22,000 volunteer hours this past year, sometimes mistakes happen!

### ***Welcome Grace Mission's New Board Members!***

YOLANDA BOGAN is an associate professor in the College of Education and Director of the Counseling Center at Florida A&M University. A native Floridian, she has been a licensed psychologist for over twenty years and is a certified addictions professional. She splits her time between St. Peter's Anglican Church and St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, where her youngest son is involved in the youth program. She has been married to the Honorable Linzie Bogan for 21 years and they have three sons - ages 19, 17 and 12.

BYRON GREENE is a native of Tallahassee and a lifetime member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, currently serving as Senior Warden. Byron is also a member of the Diocesan Council for the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. He serves as Director for a National Science Foundation grant at Florida A&M University that is comprised of 14 institutions of higher education throughout Florida. After living in Atlanta for 14 years, he returned to Tallahassee in 1996 and resides with his daughter Clarke, a junior at Leon High School.



## A Ministry of Presence

*Deacon Jeanie Beyer*

At Grace Mission, we practice the Ministry of Presence which is simply being and not doing like Mary practiced at Jesus feet. It is intentional listening to our member's stories without judgment but with warmth, regard and acceptance. One of our members recently related "I can come to Grace Mission as I am and be accepted"...not referring to his clothing but his human condition. His story is like many of our members who have been shoved aside and disaffirmed. He and other members have the basic need to belong and be affirmed...often that has not been their experience.

Being present, listening and affirming our members begins the healing process. Henri Nouwin, a renowned Catholic priest and author coined the term "Listening with the Ears of our Hearts". That is the kind of listening and presence that we provide the Grace Mission community.

We invite each of you to join us in this ministry. Come to breakfast and share a cup of coffee with one of our guests, meet a new person each week and call them by name. Listen to them and hear their stories...many stories are not that different from our own. By listening with our hearts, loving with the eyes of our hearts and serving with our hearts, each of can be a part of the transformation and healing of those we serve at Grace Mission.

See you in Church,  
*Deacon Jeanie*

### ***Upcoming Events***

#### **Blues and BBQ!**

Saturday, June 8th at the American Legion Hall. Great BBQ and even better Blues music by the locally-renowned ***Brett Wellman and the Stone Cold Blues Band***. Come out, enjoy the evening and support the ministries of Grace Mission. Stay tuned for times and ticket prices!

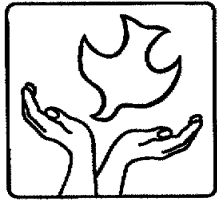
#### **Christmas in July**

We are still collecting gently used clothing and items for our FREE giveaway in July. Mark July 13th on your calendars for a Family Fun Day! Bouncy house, face painting, games, arts and crafts, and much more! It all begins at 11:00 AM.

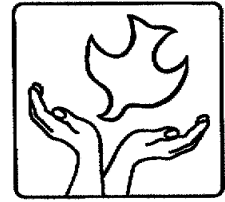


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# Grace HAPPENINGS



*the newsletter of*  
**Grace Mission Episcopal Church**  
*A Transformative Ministry of the Forgotten*  
**Lent 2013**

## **Words of Grace**

*The Rev. Amanda Nickles, Vicar*

In the initial thrust of His earthly ministry, Jesus announced,

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19).

It’s not always easy to see people through God’s eyes. The poor or homeless are poor or homeless for many reasons, not all of which are someone’s fault. Sometimes bad personal choices are involved. However, our job as a Christian witness is to join Jesus on His mission to serve and care for the poor, the homeless, the addicted, along with caring for women and children. At Grace Mission, we pray daily for God’s grace to help us learn and respond with wonder, gratitude, and love to God not only in our own lives, but in the life of everyone. The most important, most real, most lasting work we can do is accomplished in the very depths of our hearts as we follow Jesus in caring for others.

We want to thank all our ministry partners for being the ‘heartbeat’ and Christian witness at Grace Mission. It is through your giving, serving, and loving that we are able to continue following Jesus to help the poor or homeless. We served over 30,000 meals last year, over 22,000 volunteer hours, 47% of those attending services are receiving communion, Average Sunday Attendance is 181, 22% of Grace Mission’s budget is raised through fundraisers, Children’s After-School and Bible study are bearing fruit, we purchased a Water-well in Africa and donated \$2,000 to local Habitat for Humanity – all collected through the pennies, dimes, quarters of those attending Grace Mission and many are being healed at our healing service on Tuesday nights.

As the Season of Epiphany ends, we can recall the birth of the Light of the World in the ministry of Jesus Christ. As Lent begins, we can rededicate ourselves to our own ministry task of being a light to the world and to spread the Good News of the Gospel by caring, serving and loving the ‘least of these’ in our midst. Join us in reaching out our love to those in desperate need of God’s love.

*Blessings, Pastor Amanda +*

## **A Matter of the Heart**

*Elizabeth Crowe, Grace Children’s Ministries*

With your help, we served fifty-one children at Grace Mission last year through our After-School Program, Awana Club (Bible study), Sunday School, the Reading Academy, Camp Weed summer camp, Vacation Bible School at Saint John’s, back-to school supplies, Thursday’s Backpack Blessings of food for the weekend, and our Sunday nursery. This last report card period we had five children on the honor roll and most of our Awana children would be glad to tell you the Ten Commandments. It is so wonderful to see God at work in the their lives.

In Sunday School one of our children asked how God can love and take care of everyone since there are so many people in the world. Another child had the perfect answer, “Because He is God!” then added that he thought God has lots of helpers here because so many people love God. Sharing our faith is a matter of the heart, and what a strong heartbeat I hear as you put your faith and love into action serving our children. Thank you for being one of God’s helpers!

## **Holy Week Service Schedule**

|                       |                                  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Palm Sunday</b>    | 8:00 AM only, followed by brunch |
| <b>Maundy Tuesday</b> | 4:30 PM, followed by dinner      |
| <b>Good Friday</b>    | 4:00 PM, followed by dinner      |
| <b>Easter Sunday</b>  | 8:00 AM only, followed by brunch |

## **Looking for a Spiritual Discipline during Lent?**

Grace Mission will be offering fish dinners on Fridays in March during the season of Lent. There’s only two left: March 8th and 15th, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and are dine-in only. Donations of \$5.00 are gratefully accepted. Come and break bread with your brothers and sisters in Christ at Grace Mission!

**WE HAVE A NEW LOOK!** Over 35 people, mostly Grace Mission members, helped paint the outside of the building. Tom Gray (Holy Comforter) cooked the hamburgers & hot dogs, Joe Watts (Watts Mechanical) made a terrific potato salad, and Cathy (GM cook) made awesome baked beans. A great treat after working in the cold wind! Thank You to everyone that helped - it looks WONDERFUL!!!



**Grace Happens - Come and See!**

**www.gracemission.net + Corner of Brevard and Bronough + 850/224-3817**

