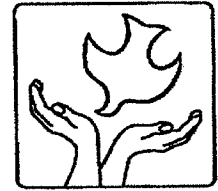


Grace HAPPENINGS



the newsletter of
Grace Mission Episcopal Church
Advent 2010

Words of Grace

The Rev. Amanda Nickles, Vicar

It seems appropriate to be writing this message before the seasons of Advent and Christmas when Alleluia will soon be on our lips, the Christ candle will burn near the altar and we will be mindful of the presence of Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate the hope and joy of the coming season with a spirit of giving and sharing; with hearts full of blessing, praise and thanksgiving; and being forever mindful of the needs of others.

Each year Grace Mission sends paper ornaments, with our needs listed on each ornament in various denominations, to our Partner Churches. Surprise yourself and surprise God with your own recital of gratitude remembering 'the least of these' that attend Grace Mission. Become the alleluia this holiday season, an alleluia in someone's life!

The Good News about Christmas is that you received a gift of a lifetime - "Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!" (Hymn 87). You are never going to be offered a greater gift than Jesus. Help us at Grace Mission to continue offering the gift of Jesus Christ. This is the heart of Christmas - a gift worth unwrapping!

"Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!" (Hymn 87).

Thank you for remembering Grace Mission in your prayers and in your heart. Have a glorious and rejoicing Christmas.

Pastor Amanda +

A Day of Prayer for Grace Mission

January 6, 2011 9:00AM - 6:00PM

Come join us for a mighty day of prayer. Grace Mission's Sanctuary will be open all day. Stop in for a short time or stay longer.

"...pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done." Philippians 4:6

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Elizabeth Crowe, Grace Children's Ministries

The shepherds came searching -
While the stars were shining
The angels were singing
And the wise men were journeying...
Someone asked, "Who is that in the manger?"
Mary and Joseph responded, "His name is Jesus."

Consider the gift of helping a child to know, love and serve the Lord. Truly a gift that will keep on giving though eternity!

In February Grace Mission is starting Awana Clubs for children in grades K - 6. A few months ago I asked, "What's Awana?". It is an international, nondenominational youth organization that exists to reach children and youth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ while training them to serve Him. It is also our hope that we will reach parents and family members with the Gospel, as well, through Awana.

Awana Clubs are centered on the Gospel and focused on memorizing Scripture and training children to serve. The Gospel is always the focus in Awana Clubs but Awana is also fun. What's the big attraction? Games! Check out www.youtube.com/user/CommandTPhotograph.

Awana Clubs embrace the principle of being built on volunteer leadership. Our weekly Clubs at Grace Mission will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30pm. To begin and run our Awana program we need many volunteers. Come learn about Awana at our Overview/Q&A meeting on Thursday, January 13 from 6-7pm and see if this is something God is calling you to do. For those who are called to this incredible journey, Basic Training is scheduled for Thursday, January 27 from 6-9pm.

Contact me at elizabeth.grace@nettally.com or 850/320-2233 to let me know of your interest. Please join us in giving the gift of a lifetime to a child - Jesus Christ.



Grace Happens - Come and See!
Corner of Brevard and Bronough + 850/224-3817



Advent: A Time of Reflection

by Geoff Schwartz
Senior Warden

As I prepare to observe a meaningful Advent, I once again reflect on the radical transformation of the heart that manifests itself at Grace Mission. One need only to listen during a Saturday morning Bible Studies or Tuesday evening praise and prayer service to experience not only the outpouring of broken people in a broken world but also to the unabashed expressions of repentance and love for Jesus that is largely absent from most mainline churches. It has been said that Grace Mission is the Gospel at work in the trenches, and those who have experienced Grace Mission are witnesses to that truth. That is where Jesus spent most of his ministry—in the trenches with outcasts, the marginalized, the “least of these.”

This radical transformation phenomenon is not limited to those who call Grace Mission their church home. It also is shared by many people from the outside faith community who have risked being a part of the lives of Grace Mission’s parishioners. Grace Mission has a slogan which simply says “Grace Happens, Come and See.” Those who have accepted that invitation have received at the very least a glimpse of God’s grace and the opportunity to examine their own state of spiritual wellness. Through my experiences at Grace, I have discovered my spiritual state of being needs a big heaping portion of God’s tender mercies. Grace Mission is where I find that in abundance.

Every Advisory Board meeting begins with the following prayer so its members can focus on what those who participate in Grace Mission’s ministries are called to do and who they are called to be.

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy to us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Grace Mission hopes you will incorporate this prayer in your Advent prayer life to be a constant reminder that, as Father Henri Nouwen teaches, Jesus comes to us in the poor. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (MT 5:3)

Advent Calendar

Join us in Celebrating the Birth
Of Jesus Christ

- DEC. 3 5:00pm Dinner and Christmas Crafts
Movie - *Painting Christmas Cards*
- DEC. 4 Christmas Crafts for Kids 1-3:00 p.m.
For Children only
- DEC. 5 Feast of St. Nicholas
Blessing of Candy Canes
Christmas Card Sunday
*Cards for you to address & send to family
and friends- we will mail them for you**
- DEC. 7 'Heirs of Grace' singing group
Join us in singing Christmas songs
- DEC. 10 5:00 p.m. Annual Pizza & Ice Cream
Sundae Party - movie
Set-up Live Christmas tree
Make decorations for trees
*Come string popcorn and make
homemade ornaments for the
Christmas tree*
- DEC. 12 Advent Lessons and Carols
Christmas Card Sunday*
*Come and enjoy the wonderful lessons
and songs of the Advent Season*
- Dec. 17 Set-up artificial tree in Cafeteria &
Decorate – movie
*Hanging of the Greens - help us decorate
the Church for Christmas*
- DEC. 19 Christmas Pageant
Christmas Caroling through the
Frenchtown neighborhood, plus Hot
Coffee and Soup Walk 1-4:00pm
- DEC. 21 Holy Comforter Folk Choir/Christmas songs
Ham dinner with trimmings
- DEC. 22 Gift bags for children given out 2-4:00pm
Please sign-up
- DEC. 24 4:00pm Carols/singing begins
4:30pm Christmas Service
6:00pm Christmas dinner
Reservations required
- DEC. 25 CLOSED
- DEC. 26 10:30am Worship Service
Noon Lunch
- DEC. 31 5-8:00 p.m. New Year's Eve games & movie



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