

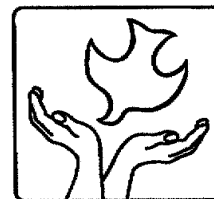
Grace HAPPENINGS

the newsletter of

Grace Mission Episcopal Church

...a transformative ministry of the forgotten

Advent 2014



Words of Grace

The Rev. Amanda Nickles, Vicar

Dear Ministry Partners:

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. For those of you that won't have the opportunity to participate in the paper ornament gift giving, I would like to give you some examples: one after-school dinner for 10 children is \$10.00, cleaning supplies \$10.00, medical ministry \$25.00 (we hope to give free flu shots this year but we could use your help to pay for the medicine), office supplies \$25.00, and so on. 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+

In the Company of Nomads

Elizabeth Crowe, Grace Children's Ministries

With the grace of God we launched the after-school program in September in two locations with the core group of children from Joe Louis and a dozen new children from the Frenchtown neighborhood. Due to the closing of the Community Center at Joe Louis, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays we are at the LeVerne Payne Community Center on 4th Avenue where we have snacks, creative play, homework/tutoring, and dinner. On Thursdays we are on FSU's campus at University Lutheran. This third day is an addition to our after-school program and allows us to add a VBS format Christian Education piece in place of Creative Play. The children are adjusting to the new locations, being bussed to program, and the addition of the third day. The parents are glad to have us involved with the children three days a week and appreciate that we provide the necessary transportation. Having outgrown our space for children's programs at Grace Mission and holding program in two off-site locations, I am reminded that God always has been, is, and will be with His people as they wander. As I pray over our programs, I feel blessed to be on this journey with His children.

In a few weeks we'll be in the season of Advent and in the midst of preparations for our Family Christmas Celebration for the children. Please see the boxes in this newsletter for information about our angels to be placed on Angel Trees in your church and for information on volunteering to help with the Family Celebration on Tuesday, December 16, at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and participation as we continue on this exciting journey with the children of Grace.

Worship! Volunteer!

Come be a part of the Grace Mission Family Christmas Celebration! We welcome you to worship with us Tuesday, December 16, at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church. We also need volunteers to help with this event: transportation for families, checking families in, setting up, serving dinner, cleaning up, or distributing gift bags. Please call Grace Mission at 224-3817 to volunteer or for additional information.



Grace Happens - Come and See!

Corner of Brevard and Bronough + P.O. Box 10472, Tallahassee, FL 32302

www.gracemission.net



Christmas Markets

Grace Mission is an agency that is represented in the two Alternative Christmas Markets in Tallahassee. Both markets feature “gifts that make a difference” from more than 30 non-profit charitable organizations. The markets are:

John Wesley UMC 1689 Old Saint Augustine Rd.

Saturday, December 6 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 7 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Christ Presbyterian Church 2317 Bannerman Rd.

Friday, December 12 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 13 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Honor those on your Christmas list who have enough by sharing with those in need. Rather than taking home the usual gifts, you can instead get an attractive hand-lettered card detailing for the persons you’ve honored exactly how the donation benefits a less fortunate person or family. It is a convenient and heart-warming shopping experience! Tangible gifts are available in the form of hand-crafted fair trade items from third-world artisans, and many local charities also have items for sale. Admission is a non-perishable food item.

Angel Trees

Please take an angel from your church’s angel tree and think of the joy you’ll bring that child! Return unwrapped gifts to your church or to Grace Mission by Sunday, December 7. In lieu of or in addition to a gift, you may enclose a gift card to Wal-Mart or Target. These gifts will be given at our Family Christmas Celebration on Tuesday, December 16. Attach the angel to your gift(s) or clearly mark the name of the child on the gift bag. “Not Named” angels are for siblings of children in our program so we will have a gift for every child present that evening

Help! We are in need of Christmas Cards. At Grace Mission we provide Christmas cards to our members. We also provide stamps and then mail them for everyone. It’s a wonderful gift for people to connect or reconnect with family and friends. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Also, we are in need of a Volunteer Christmas Coordinator for our Christmas Eve dinner. We need someone to coordinate the volunteers for our sit-down dinner and our gift-giving room that evening. This year we are celebrating our Christmas Eve Worship and dinner on **Dec. 23rd** beginning at 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Pastor Amanda at 224-3817 (and if you are interested in simply serving that night contact Delois Brown).

A Year of Grace

Seminarian David Tremaine

Hello Church:

Though I started my ministry at Grace at the beginning of September, I wanted to take the opportunity to officially introduce myself to the Grace community. My name is David Tremaine. I am a postulant from the Diocese of Florida and a second year student at Virginia Theological Seminary in the Master in Divinity program. I just finished my middler (second) year at VTS and am taking this year off of school to complete my Field Education internship at Grace Mission.

It is wonderful to be back in Florida and back in my home diocese. Though I was born in New Jersey, my family and I moved to Gainesville when I was fourteen, and I spent all four of my high school years at Gainesville High School. And then, yes my Tallahassee brethren, I stayed in Gainesville and attended The University of Florida, where I received a Bachelor degree in Psychology with a minor in Religion and Family, Youth and Community Sciences. I graduated from UF in 2010 and spent the next two years in the diocesan discernment process. I was granted postulancy from the diocese of Florida in spring of 2012. I started at VTS the following August and have been in Alexandria ever since.

Now I have this amazing opportunity, this blessing, to spend a year learning, growing and developing an even stronger understanding of my vocation as I begin a new chapter of my journey at Grace Mission. I am overwhelmed and excited by the power of this place, and I can’t wait to see how the Spirit will move in me, in this ministry, and in this vibrant and passionate community during my time here. I thank each and every one of you for the warm welcome which I have already received and I look forward to meeting even more of the talented and passionate people that make this ministry possible. God Bless you all and, obviously, Go Gators.

Love,
David

2014 Evening of Grace

The 5th Annual Evening of Grace was held on September 27, 2014 at the FSU Alumni Center, and it was a wonderful evening. Thank you all for making it such a glorious event. And if you haven’t heard, Bishop Howard gave Grace Mission a check for over \$107,000 to pay off the mortgage on the building. We are thrilled! The net profit on the Gala was \$27,000, a new record. Well done Adam and Jennifer Blalock as co-chairs and the Gala committee!



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