

GRACE HAPPENINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF

GRACE MISSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

... A TRANSFORMATIVE MINISTRY OF THE FORGOTTEN ...

HELP • HEALING • HOPE

SUMMER 2016

Words of Grace

The Rev. Amanda Nickles, Vicar

Dear Ministry Partners:

I just recently finished a book, "God's Dream for You" by Matthew Barnett, pastor and leader of the Dream Center in California, and he had some poignant thoughts and I want to share them with you. He begins, "Human need is often God's call to action."

At Grace Mission we uncover opportunities to serve by placing ourselves in a position to let our hearts be broken. Purposeful ministry starts with people in need, someone who has a vision for how to meet that need, and enough faith to take a step in that direction. God-given purpose arises out of need.

Sometimes we pray and pray and pray about finding a way to meet a particular need or solve a specific problem when the truth is, we are the solution! God has called us to be a blessing to others - to love them, heal them, and serve them. And that is what we always try to do at Grace Mission. In particular, we are caring for the "least of these" in our midst - the poor, weak, vulnerable, elderly, homeless, addicts and children. But it is only Jesus that can take prostitutes, alcoholics, thieves, and emaciated drug addicts - only Jesus can take victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment, and violence and transform them into hopeful, tenderhearted, clear-eyed men and women who are dreaming fresh dreams for themselves and their families.

Mother Teresa once said, "We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. But the poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty."

By extending love, care and compassion to everyone that comes to Grace Mission they begin to embrace their dreams and hope begins to be restored in their lives. They begin to see that God has a dream for their lives.

Thank you for all your support and prayers. Thank you for helping us move one step closer in fulfilling God's dream for help, healing and hope within the City of Tallahassee.

Faithfully in Christ,
Pastor Amanda+

Seasons of Blessings and Growth

Elizabeth Crowe, Grace Children's Ministries

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

What a wonderful blessing St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church has been to Grace Mission's children's program this past year! We moved our program to St. Michael's in July with our summer Reading Academy and held this school year's After-School Program in their parish hall. After being in secular spaces the last two years, we were delighted to be back in an Episcopal church where the children flourished under St. Michael's roof. They learned about oceans, held sea urchins, made butter from cream, did homework, read many, many books, learned more about Jesus and how much God loves them, and felt right at home. As this season comes to an end, we are grateful for and thank every parishioner of St. Michael's for so graciously welcoming all our volunteers and us. As a new season begins, we are moving to the Episcopal University Center at FSU where we will have more room, quick access for 80% of our volunteers who are FSU students, and easier access to FSU facilities.

Hot days mean another season is almost here – Summer! We will be taking fifteen children to **Summer Camp at Camp Weed July 3 – 6** where they will bask in the love of Jesus through their counselors and enjoy all the activities they have been dreaming of for months. Please keep us in your prayers for safe travel and good health. Also, if you'd like to help support sending a child to camp, gently used pool and bath towels, new pillows, pillowcases, bug spray, sunscreen, or gift cards to Wal-Mart for clothes, shoes and supplies are most welcome. To send a child to camp costs an average of \$200 per child so any donations are appreciated.

God gave us plants, seeds, trees, flowers and fruits. With this gift of food came the birds of the air and every thing that creeps on the earth – animals that would fertilize and propagate His earthly garden. The theme for the **Reading Academy July 25-30**, 11:00 – 5:00 pm, is "The Pollinators" where children will learn about pollinators and how important they are in God's creation, bringing us one of

Continued on back page

GRACE HAPPENS – COME AND SEE!

CORNER BREVARD AND BRONOUGH

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Seasons of Blessings and Growth (continued)

every three bites of food we eat. If you'd like to volunteer for an activity center (Readers Garden, Blooming Arts and Crafts, Garden Lab) for an hour, a day, or a specific center please contact me at elizcrowe@comcast.net.

Just as the pollinators do, summer will also fly by and we will be stuffing backpacks the week of August 1st to be ready for the **Blessing of the Back-to-School Backpacks on Sunday, August 7.** We DO need wide ruled notebook paper, primary composition books with space at top for pictures, enclosed pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, hand held erasers, markers, dry erase markers, headphones/ear buds for computer lab, notebook dividers, small and large Post-It Notes, construction paper, and a few boys and girls backpacks. Any donations or supplies are welcome! We do NOT need crayons, pencils, colored pencils, scissors, rulers, spiral notebooks, calculators, or index cards.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. May you have a blessed summer!

Thank you to everyone who supported and attended the 20th Anniversary Grace Mission Gala, "*An Evening of Grace*" on April 9th. A special thank you to St. John's Episcopal Church for being a gracious host for the event and a special thank you to Betsy Calhoun for the arrangement of the beautiful music for the worship service which preceded the event, as well as to St. John's for the church bulletin. Cameron and Teresa Jackson, the co-chairs, along with their volunteer team and leaders did an incredible job on short notice. We are especially grateful to all of our wonderful sponsors who supported the event and all of our in-kind sponsors who were most generous in their giving of the silent auction merchandise and other items needed for the event. It was a delightful evening of good food and terrific entertainment by Avis Berry.

Together, we raised \$33,740. I applaud everyone who helped, and we are most humbled by your outpouring of support! Thank You!

*Introducing
The Rev. Dr. Jenni Liem*

Dear Friends of Grace Mission

It is a great honor and blessing to begin working with this important and (pun intended) grace-filled ministry here in Tallahassee!

With the promise of new avenues of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, let me take a bit of space to introduce myself.

I am The Rev Dr. Jenni Liem, or as has become my new title, Pastor J. I have recently moved to Tallahassee from a seven-year call at Lake Tahoe in California. You might wonder, why Tallahassee? Briefly, my Dad has lived here for a goodly time and when my call ended he invited me to come here and work in ministry. So, I packed and drove furiously, with my three cats (Dakota, Peter, and Paul) to lovely Northern Florida. I studied at Fort Lewis College, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, and Paideia University (in The Netherlands).

I am the oldest sibling of four, Episcopal priest of 10 years, former youth minister and camp director, avid knitter, student of history and theology, committed advocate for Social Justice, and enthusiastic cook.

I am looking forward to spending time with God and the good people of Grace Mission. I believe the ministry happening on Brevard is some of the most challenging, exhilarating, and Jesus-centered that the Church can be doing and I am so very blessed to be here.

News & Needs:

September 24, Blues & BBQ, 6:00 p.m., American Legion Hall at Lake Ella, music at 7:00 p.m. featuring Brett Wellman and the Stone Cold Blues Band. \$10 admission, \$8 suggested meal donation.

Donations Needed—Please remember us when cleaning out your closets – we especially need gently used items for children's summer camp and coats and blankets for next winter !

Volunteers Needed - We have been short on volunteers on certain days of the week and we could really use your help. Please consider volunteering – you don't need to make a huge commitment of time – whatever you can manage is up to you. We would love for you to join us in helping those in need.

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