



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH • HELP • HEALING • HOPE

*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. - Galatians 6:9*

Dear Ministry Partners,

Easter is coming! The resurrection is near!

It has been almost one year to the day, as of this writing, when Grace Mission made the sad but necessary decision to close its doors to the public to protect its parishioners and attendees, its volunteers, and its staff from the coronavirus. In March 2020, we reluctantly suspended the S.O.A.R. After School Program for students as well as in-person programs and services at Grace Mission and closed the main building to almost all, except staff. On December 31, 2020, our longtime vicar Pastor Amanda Nickles retired.

As we move through this time of Lent - a more somber season of the church for reflection, repentance and transformation - we can't help but think about the previous year we spent in a virtual lockdown. The year has been one of challenges. What was to be forty days of Lent in 2020 feels at times like a season that lasted the entire year. Although staff and the Advisory Board have continued with the work of Grace Mission during the closure to the public, there is no doubt that we've missed the connection with each of you. We've missed the fellowship and love of those who worship at Grace Mission. We've missed the bustle of the many volunteers preparing and serving meals. Most of all, we've missed seeing the faces of our friends, as well as those who we didn't know so well, who came through our doors for spiritual solace, a meal, a shower or a hug. We've missed you all deeply.

But, as we see the signs of spring and new life popping up all over Tallahassee and look forward to celebrating the risen Christ, we can't help but be hopeful that it won't be long before we are able to open our doors and see you again. We do not yet have a new vicar but the search is ongoing and we trust that there is someone out there who God will call to this place and to this ministry. Meanwhile, we continue our work remembering that "we must not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap in harvest time, if we do not give up" (*Galatians 6:9*). Be assured, the staff, board, volunteers and donors have not given up!

Even while closed, Grace Mission has stayed committed to helping the forgotten. For example, Grace Mission partnered with the Kearney Center to deliver 32,946 nutritional and homemade meals to their off-site locations for the homeless in 2020 with an additional 8,560 through the end of March 2021. Thank you to the staff at Grace Mission and to our supply priests, occasional volunteers, and donors for making this happen. In addition, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners were provided to those in need and turkeys and food boxes were given to the families of children enrolled in the S.O.A.R. Program. Out of our abundance, Grace Mission was able to bless two partner agencies with 26 frozen turkeys and provided holiday gift bags to many which included hygiene items, clothing and miscellaneous candy from our donation collection.

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Grace Mission is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida  
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The closure of Grace Mission allowed the staff to complete improvements and needed repairs to the building, paint the sanctuary and other spaces, clean and organize the storage areas, refrigerators and more. The accessible shower stall was installed in the newly-renovated and painted bathroom thanks to your donations. The list goes on.

To all of you who have been a part of Grace Mission, we ask that you continue to pray for us. It has been your consistent support, prayers and love that have allowed Grace Mission to stay faithful to its mission even in these difficult times. We will not grow weary in doing what is right for those who need our help and we have faith that we will reap in harvest time with your assistance, your prayers, and your support.

We will see you soon! Have a glorious Easter!

Grace Mission Advisory Board