

From the Deacon's Desk

Deacon Jeanie Beyer

Grace Mission takes the acts of feeding and serving very seriously!

You have already read in Pastor Amanda's and Miss Elizabeth's articles about the new Outreach Ministries that Grace Mission has established at The Joe Louis Housing Project this summer. These ministries have opened up the opportunity to make new relationships, grow in community together and to bring Jesus to a new group of people who are often dismissed or forgotten by society.

What you may not have heard about is that Grace Mission has also taken on new ministries within the Church. A community of faith cannot effectively go into the world and be God's hands and feet without first being nurtured and fed.

As Episcopalians, we appreciate the importance of gathering around the altar and being fed by Word and Sacrament which we do three times a week. This summer we have added several new sources by which we are being spiritually fed. On Wednesday mornings we are praying Morning Prayer from the Daily Office together and enjoying lively discussions on the reading for the day. Sometimes, I think I have grown more from these discussions than the participants.

Following Morning Prayer, we have Bible Study. These sessions generally have 18-30 attendees. We recently finished a four week study on James 1:1-12. Each week we focused on "considering it all joy." As members shared about some of their darkest times, they were able to reflect on the fact that the situations hadn't lasted forever. Many could look back and be grateful for those situations because God had gotten them through it. There was "joy" when they reflected on the fact that God was with them and they could count on God's presence.

This summer, Grace Mission sponsored three men's spiritual retreats at Camp Weed. These retreat days provided times of worship, study, work and refreshment. The men also had the opportunity to have individual spiritual direction with a priest if they chose. (They loved that time with Fr. Don Dinwidde). Our men all feel blessed to have had this spiritual time away and confess to having experienced God in new and holy ways. When I arrived one Sunday afternoon to bring them back to Tallahassee, they asked "why couldn't you have waited one more day before coming to pick us up?" They didn't want to leave the mountain top.

Opportunities for worship, prayer and biblical studies are nurturing us as a spiritual community. They prepare us to better serve the Lord when they leave Church. Getting volunteers from our Grace Mission community is not a difficult task anymore. They are eager to serve and love the One who first loved them.

The Grace Mission community truly understands the Deacon's dismissal to go into the world to "love and serve the Lord!"



An Evening of Grace

Saturday, September 28th - Mission San Luis

The Friends of Grace Mission are hosting our annual fall benefit on Saturday, September 28th. Join us for a special evening of fine food, fellowship and dancing to benefit the worthy ministries of Grace Mission Church! *An Evening of Grace* will be held at Mission San Luis (2100 West Tennessee Street) from 6:30 to 10:00 PM. This year's gala will include a great mix of musical talent, including

- ◆ Internationally-Renowned Jazz Trumpeter **Longineu Parsons!**
- ◆ The Sizzling Salsa of **Latin Attitude!**
- ◆ The Island Rhythms of Leon High School's own **Lion Steel Drum Band!**

Tickets are \$100 per person/\$180 per couple. Sponsorships and reserved tables are also available. Tickets and more information are available by calling 850-224-3817.

Visit www.gracemission.net

Grace Mission's new website is a great place to see the upcoming schedule of worship services and events, learn more about where your talents can become a ministry blessing, see all of the outreach programs we have for children, how you can make financial contributions, etc. At Grace Mission, there's always plenty of ways to serve our Lord by helping the least of our brothers and sisters!

Children's Ministries (continued)

The space we will use is a large empty public room used by many other groups. I have been given a locked closet where our things must be kept except when we are in session on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. That means storing all our kitchen supplies, children's files, worksheets, educational games like multiplication bingo and scrabble, our AR library of books for grades 1 - 5, beanbag chairs/rugs for the reading corner, and the many materials we use for this program. In other words, we will set up and take down our classrooms every day! Gift cards to Wal-Mart or Target would be appreciated, as I need to organize the closet and the classrooms and need containers for books, files, supplies, and a means of moving them around the huge room. I also need volunteers to set up the rooms on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays between noon and 3pm and need someone to put everything away on Wednesdays between 5 and 6pm while the children are eating dinner. All has to be stored by 6pm, as other groups meet there in the evening right after us.

Thank you for your support in this endeavor. The children are thrilled to have us there and we hope to bring the light of Christ to them in all we do. Please e-mail me at elizcrowe@comcast.net or call 850-320-2233 with any questions or to volunteer.



Grace Mission Episcopal Church

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www.gracemission.net





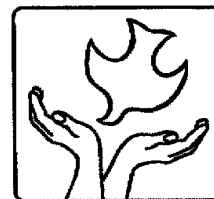
Grace HAPPENINGS

the newsletter of

Grace Mission Episcopal Church

...a transformative ministry of the forgotten

September 2013



Words of Grace

The Rev. Amanda Nickles, Vicar

"Saturday I was tired, wet and sore.....and had a REALLY GREAT TIME! Thanks!"

Dear Ministry Partners:

I received this email from one of our volunteers after the July **One Campaign/Mobile Food Pantry** food distribution in the Joe Louis Housing Project. It rained "cats and dogs" that day and everyone was soaked to the bone but we managed to distribute wholesome and nutritious food to over 200 people, half of which were children.

One of the things that makes me so proud of the volunteers of Grace Mission is our "shared community of compassion and presence" in response to 'the least of these' in our midst. It is this outpouring of faith, commitment and support offered by so many, Episcopalians and many people from other faiths, and seeing the church's spirit of generosity - of seeking and serving Christ in all persons - is nothing short of inspirational. What I believe emerges is a remarkable story of people turning their deep faith and boundless compassion into concrete action by volunteering and supporting the many ministries of Grace Mission.

And many of you have answered the common call to be the hands of Christ to those who need it most. **Thank You!** The scope of what we can accomplish together for Christ is beyond incredible. If you haven't already, we extend an invitation for you to join us in putting your faith into action - we have many glorious ways you can serve. Call us and we will be happy to give you more details (850-224-3817) or visit our website gracemission.net and click on the volunteer page.

The Rt. Rev. Stanley Ntagali, Archbishop of the Church of Uganda said it best:

"I tell my people, we serve a rich God...Our God is not poor. He is a wonderful God. He blesses our community and He blesses us."

To be part of Grace Mission is surely one of the greatest blessings of my life!

In His Name,
Pastor Amanda

Growing in Love

Elizabeth Crowe, Grace Children's Ministries

In addition to His rain, God has been pouring down blessings this summer on our children's programs. In June the children had a wonderful time at FSU's Basketball Camp, St John's Vacation Bible School, and Camp St Michael at Camp Weed. The addition of kayaking and rock wall climbing at Camp Weed were great experiences, and our smallest 3rd grader made it all the way up the 30' wall!

As you may have read in our last newsletter, we signed contracts with the Tallahassee Housing Authority to hold our summer Reading Academy and our After-School Program in the community center of Tallahassee's largest public housing project, Springfield Apartments, a.k.a. Joe Louis. July started off with a bang with our Christmas in July Festival, officially kicking off this move. Despite the rain, we had a large turnout for the festival. All had a delicious lunch, thanks to our volunteer chefs who braved the rain grilling BBQ chicken. Other volunteers were creative in redesigning and moving outdoor games inside. Picture a volunteer sitting in a chair being the pole for the giant ring toss, or volunteers being wrapped in white crepe paper streamers in the Dress a Snowman contest. Best questions of the day from a child - "Will you come do this again next weekend?" The rain didn't dampen any of the festivities or fun!

During the festival we registered children for the Reading Academy and After-School Program and both will be running at full capacity! The Reading Academy started July 23rd with 24 children, the max we wanted for our first venture. They enjoyed reading, acting out scripts, learning reading comprehension skills, crafts, and physical fitness activities. As with the Christmas in July Festival, no child wanted the Academy to end.

Our After-School program is capped at 50 students. Thank you to The Church of the Advent who graciously provided backpacks and others who provided supplies. Huge smiles filled the room when we gave the fifty children their loaded backpacks August 15. We still need lots of 3x5 index cards for students to make their own flash cards each week with their spelling/vocabulary words (we'll use 500 cards a week), hand-held hole punchers, dry erase markers, construction paper, and notebook paper (wide ruled only).

continued....



Grace Happens - Come and See!

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www.gracemission.net

