GRACE HAPPENINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF

GRACE MISSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

SUMMER 2017

HELP • HEALING • HOPE

Words of Grace

The Rev. Amanda L. Nickles, Vicar

Dear Ministry Partners:

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

These past seven years, I often reflect and think about the many ways kindness has been extended to me by so many people. And not just to me but to this wonderful place we call Grace Mission. Kindness and hospitality has been a hall-mark of this incredible place and I have been blessed to have received and witnessed such kindness, generosity, love and hospitality from so many wonderful volunteers, staff, board members and Grace Mission parishioners.

We are reminded in the book of Titus,

To be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people" (Titus 3:2).

Acts of courtesy are extremely meaningful and not in the least bit hypocritical. Words of "thank you" and "yes, please," letters of appreciation and RSVP responses are all services of courtesy. The purpose is always the same: to acknowledge others and affirm their worth.

As I celebrate my seven year anniversary at Grace Mission, I want to acknowledge, affirm and say, "Thank you" to all the wonderful people who have taught me so many things through their acts of kindness, hospitality, generosity and love. Your acts of courtesy haven't gone unnoticed, and I am humbled and blessed by your generous hearts and I am truly grateful! Thank you!

Faithfully,

Pastor Amanda+

P.S.

In other news, please welcome Chaniqua James, our new administrative assistant/volunteer coordinator. Chaniqua joined us on June 6, following the retirement of Delois Brown.

Also, Grace Mission has a beautiful new sign at the corner of Brevard and Bronough. Come by to see it!

A Summer of Water!

Elizabeth Crowe, Grace Children's Ministries

The rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return there without giving water to the earth. This makes plants grow on the earth, and gives seeds to the planter and bread to the eater.

Isaiah 55:10 New Life Version (NLV)

What a wonderful blessing The Episcopal University Center at FSU and Fr. Brian have been to Grace Mission's children's program this past year! After having been in four locations over the previous three years it is comforting to have a more permanent home. Our FSU tutors loved the convenience, and parking was provided for our TCC, FAMU, retired and other folks who tutored. With the help and guidance of tutors, 44% of our children were on the A/B Honor Roll and three others missed it by a C in one subject on this last nine-week report card. It's exciting to see their progress, especially in reading and language arts. With the help of volunteers, they will continue to work on reading skills in this summer's Reading Academy.

Reading Academy –June 19-23, 10am – 5pm, at The Episcopal University Center

The theme for the Reading Academy is *Splish! Splash!* Water Everywhere! The children (rising grades 1 – 5) will rotate through hour-long activity centers and go on field trips to the Waste Water Treatment Plant and to Wakulla Springs. We need volunteers, especially to listen to or read to a child in Ariel's Reading Center where they will read books like *Did a Dinosaur Drink This Water?* and *Magic School Bus Wet All Over*. You can volunteer for any activity center (Ariel's Reading Center, Rain Forest Water Lab, Neptune's Cave Arts & Crafts, AquaLand Games) for an hour(s), a day(s) or a specific center. Our topics for the week are:

- * June 19: The Water Cycle
- * June 20: –National Weather Service- How predict weather /Flood Simulation Model
- * June 21: The Water Cycle -God's Perfect Plan (Godly Play in the Water Lab)
- * June 22: Let's Clean It Up! 3 PM field trip to Wastewater Treatment Facility
- June 23: The Florida Aquifer all day field trip to Wakulla Springs

Please contact Elizabeth Crowe at <u>elizcrowe@comcast.net</u> or at 850 320-2233 to volunteer or for additional information.

Summer Camp at Camp Weed – July 5 –8

More water!! Twelve of our elementary school children qualified by good behavior to go to Camp Weed and will Continued on back page





From the Other Priest's Desk

The Rev. Dr. Jenni Liem

Thank the Lord for 6th graders!! Here is some news from the awesome youth group at Grace Mission.

Our Four Musketeers have finally made it to the end of the school year. They have worked hard to maintain and bring up their grades in all of their classes. We are happy to report that out of three quarters at Griffin Middle School, grades for our students remain consistent. There is always room for improvement in their grades and we are making effort in the areas of math and reading. Our tutors have been working diligently with each of our students on organization and goal setting; it appears that our students have taken to these efforts enthusiastically. As we look forward to our next academic year, we will be refining our program to address our students' needs coupled with our program goals. In the end, we give thanks for our middle school students who have worked hard in their academics and community building. They continue to be a joy to work with and a reminder that all of us are works in progress!

Turning toward the summer, our youth group will be meeting once a week for a fun and enriching adventure. We are going to the FSU Reservation for some fun in the sun, the Tallahassee Museum, a road trip to see a working farm, Mission San Luis, and as many other things as we can think of that are different and exciting! There will even be another epic Bowling Event (students versus adults)! The Four Musketeers will also be going to Summer Camp at Camp Weed along with our selected After School students. They are really looking forward to the adventure of Camp and the opportunity to show off their leadership skills.

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A wonderful story about our students: At the beginning of May, we took them blueberry picking at Jubilee Orchards – talk about fun in the sun! The best part was hearing their laughter and mirth drifting over the rows of blueberry bushes. When we returned to town, they each took home a bag full of their own blueberries. Thank you to everyone who went with us and showed our kiddos a new kind of adventure.

We are blessed to have such wonderful and challenging students in our youth group and they continue to show us that life is an adventure!

8th Annual An Evening of Grace

Thank you to everyone who supported and attended the 8th Annual Grace Mission Gala "Cheeseburgers in Paradise." We especially want to thank our sponsors for the evening.

Everyone had a wonderful time and the evening was a huge success. Special thanks to Vertigo Burgers, Sweet Grass Dairy, Grasslands Brewery, Lucy and Leo's Cupcakes, Southern Wine and Spirits, Steve Johnson, Jimmy Parrish and the Waves, and the many volunteers who helped make the night so fun and special. From all of us at Grace Mission thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

A Summer Of Water! (continued)

soon be kayaking, splashing in the pool, and enjoying all Camp Weed has to offer. Consider volunteering on Camp Prep Day, June 28, 11:00-3:00, and help them make luggage tags and get clothes ready and packed in their pillowcase luggage! Drop an email to elizcrowe@comcast.net to volunteer! 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, financial donations to cover the fees for camp and/or Wal-Mart gift cards for supplies are most appreciated.

Back-to-School Backpacks:

We will be stuffing backpacks the week of August 1st to be ready for Blessing of the Backpacks on Thursday, August 11. We need primary composition books with space at top for pictures, enclosed pencil sharpeners, hand held erasers, markers, dry erase markers, colored pencils, headphones/ear buds for computer lab, notebook dividers, small and large Post-It Notes, pencil boxes and pouches, and boys' and girls' backpacks. We do NOT need notebook paper, crayons, pencils, scissors, rulers, spiral notebooks, calculators, folders, or index cards. In lieu of supplies, we gladly accept Wal-Mart gift cards and will do the shopping for you!

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

Giving in Grace

Anna Blalock and Martha Childs contributed Girl Scout cookies to Grace Mission. Martha is shown below with Pastor Amanda. Martha is the daughter of Advisory Board member David Childs and Lizbeth Childs and Anna is the daughter of former Advisory Board member Jenny Blalock and Adam Blalock



Upcoming Events

Additional 2017 mobile food pantries <u>at Grace Mission</u>
August 12 October 14

August 19, 2017, 6:00 p.m.—Annual Blues & BBQ at the Lake Ella American Legion Hall, music at 7:00 p.m. featuring Brett Wellman and the Stone Cold Blues Band, \$10 admission, \$8 suggested meal donation at the door

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