**GRACE MISSION**

Episcopal Church

*…a transformative ministry of the forgotten*

Dear Ministry Partners,

In the initial thrust of His earthly ministry, Jesus announced,

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me to preach

good news to the poor. He sent me to proclaim freedom to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, to proclaim the

year of the Lord’s favor” (Luke 4:18-19).

It’s not always easy to see people through God’s eyes. The poor or homeless are poor or homeless for many reasons, not all of which are someone’s fault. Sometimes bad personal choices are involved. However, our job as a Christian witness to the poor is to join Jesus on His mission to serve and care for the poor, the homeless, the addicted, along with caring for women and children. At Grace Mission, we pray daily for God’s grace to help us learn and respond with wonder, gratitude, and love to God not only in our own lives, but in the life of every person we encounter. The most important, most real, most lasting work we can do is accomplished in the very depths of our hearts as we follow Jesus in caring for others.

We want to thank all our ministry partners for being the *‘heartbeat’* and Christian witness at Grace Mission. It is through your giving, serving, and loving that we are able to continue following Jesus to help the poor or homeless. We served over 30,000 meals last year, over 22,000 volunteer hours, 47% of those attending services are receiving communion, Average Sunday Attendance is 181, 22% of Grace Mission’s budget is raised through fundraisers, Children’s After-School and Bible study are bearing fruit, we purchased a Water-well in Africa and donated $2,000.00 to the local Habitat for Humanity build – all collected through the pennies, dimes, quarters of those attending Grace Mission and many are being healed at our healing service on Tuesday nights.

As the Season of Epiphany ends, we can recall the birth of the Light of the World in the ministry of Jesus Christ. As Lent begins, we can rededicate ourselves to our own ministry task of being a light to the world and to spread the Good News of the Gospel by caring, serving and loving the ‘least of these’ in our midst.

Join us in reaching out our love to those in desperate need of God’s love. We appreciate your support.

In His Name,

Pastor Amanda+