

GRACE notes

GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



April 2013

Volume 56, Issue 4



Several of your church staff members and ruling elders attended the March meeting of the Central Florida Presbytery. One of the highlights was our guest speaker, **Dr. Steve Hayner**, the new president of Columbia Theological Seminary in the Greater Atlanta area. **He preached about evangelism and he made several great points.**

First, Christ must be our priority. We need to put the first things first. We need to proclaim Christ. The main thing is not all the other great things we do...the programs, the missions, the youth groups etc, but to proclaim Christ. These other things (the work we do with youth or in missions, etc) become great only when they proclaim Christ.

Second, we need to feel comfortable in talking about our faith. The only way to do that is to begin to practice! Start the conversations. Share your faith with others. Dr. Hayner said it will be easier than you think. In his experience, once you begin to share your faith, others are much more receptive than we expect.

Third, we need to live out our faith day by day. We cannot share our faith when people who know us see us live lives contrary to the Gospel.

Fourth, we need to pray. Our sharing the faith will fall on deaf ears if we do not engage in prayer. Share your faith with friends, and then pray that God will work in the hearts of those friends.

Finally, Dr. Hayner said that when it comes to the growth of our churches, **we are God's Plan A, and God has no Plan B.**

~Maynard

Dates to put on your calendar:

- April 8 - Ruth Circle
- April 14 - Study and Fun
- April 13 - Cars & Canines Wash
- April 14 - Teacher Appreciation Day and Receive New Members
- April 16 - Family Fun Nite
- April 19 - Study and Fun
- May 3-4 Relay for Life



The **ARK Youth of Grace Covenant** thank you all for your support at our "St. Patcake's Day" Breakfast. **We raised nearly \$1,000!** We thank the Publix store at E. Colonial and Shine for their generous donation of food, and for all of the parental help.

Our next fundraising event is our **Cars and Canines Wash** on **Saturday, April 13th from 10 am-2pm** at the church. We will make your Porsches and pooches look clean and spiffy! (Okay, most of us don't drive Porsches, but allow us some alliteration!)



Cookie Sunday

...is April 28th! On the 4th Sunday of each month we accept donations from the congregation. These cookies are used for hospitality time after the second worship service each week. Thank you for all your contributions.

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TEACHER APPRECIATION SUNDAY



The Christian Education Committee has designated **April 14, 2013** as a day to say a special "thank you" to the team of teachers who are in class to lead the Adults, Youth and Children of our church on Sunday mornings.

The teachers and their families will be honored at a luncheon in Conway Hall on that day. Take the time to write a note or say "thank you" to this group of "Shining Stars".

NEW MEMBERS always bring joy when they join our Grace Covenant family. **We will receive new members on Sunday morning, April 14th prior to the 10:45 service.** GCPC members: If you know someone that should be invited to membership in our faith family – or has expressed an interest in uniting with us – please jot a note on the Friendship Pad when you sign-in on Sundays, or speak with one of the pastors. If you are a visitor receiving the GRACE NOTES, please note your interest by checking the "Membership" box on the Friendship Pad or alerting one of the pastors. Or, call the church office: 407-898-6571; or drop an Email to harvo@grace.to **Thanks, Rev. Harv O**



What: Clean up the Conway/Curry Ford area

Date: 27 April

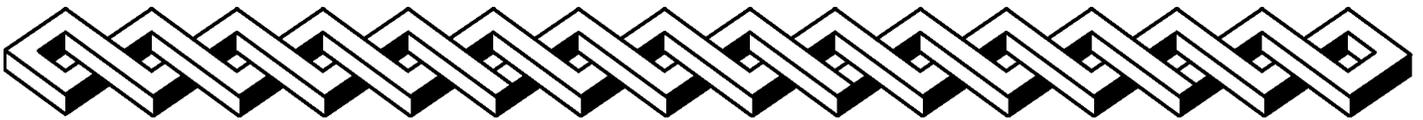
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Sponsored by: Conway Community Council and the City of Orlando

Needed: Conway residents and groups from churches or scouts to come and help pick up debris and plant trees on Curry Ford Road.

If you would like to help in the Community Clean Up meet at 8:45 at the **First United Church of Christ**, 4605 Curry Ford Road, Orlando, FL 32812. In addition, **GCPC is donating fruit and water for the thirsty and energy replenishment needs of the volunteers.** This is a great way for our congregation can get out and meet others in our neighborhood and also make our wonderful Conway neighborhood an even better place to live!

For more information on outreach opportunities email or call **Susan Williams**.



Relay for Life is not just a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society; it is the American Cancer Society embodying its emphasis on cancer control education, honoring those persons whose lives have been lost to cancer, and celebrating cancer survivors. It is both lots of fun and very emotional. It brings out the best in each participant and volunteer as we come together as a community with the common goal – to make a difference in the fight against cancer!

Grace Covenant's Team—**Grace's Angels** is comprised of friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors that are cancer Survivors, Caregivers, and those who love and support them.

The event starts with a Victory Lap! This is the first lap walked by all of our courageous Survivors. A special time is also set aside during the Relay to honor the Caregivers who help support Survivors through their journey. Following the first lap, each team is encouraged to keep at least 1 team member on the track at all times through the end of the event. **Cancer never rests – neither do we!**

To join the team you may sign up at the kiosk fill out the sign-up sheet; or you may go online and go to www.RelayForLife.org/ConwayFL where you can find Grace's Angels and sign up. Your donation to the American Cancer Society will help fund research and insure that more of us will have more birthdays. We hope to see many of you at the track at **Boone May 3-4thLet's Relay for Life!**

Do you know someone you would like to memorialize or honor with a **luminaire**? There will be bags available to take home and decorate and return to the team for Relay for Life. Look for them at the Kiosk. **The Luminaire will be placed around the track for a very special candle lighting ceremony.** A nominal donation for each bag is suggested. Come by and pick up a bag and be sure to return it in time for the relay.

JOIN US FOR EXCITING APRIL EVENTS!



On **Thursday, April 4th**, a representative from Orange County will present what promises to be a very informative program on **IDENTITY THEFT**. Bring a sandwich and meet with us at 11:00 in the John Calvin Memorial Hall conference room. Dessert and beverages will be provided by the hostesses.

Future Dates:

The April field trip will be on FRIDAY, THE 19TH rather than the usual third Thursday. We will be touring the Florida Hospital Organ Transplant Clinic. We hope that you will be able to meet us at the church on the 19th at 10:45 for this most interesting outing. Please watch the Church Bulletin for the luncheon location.

Mark your calendar now for one of the highlights of the year, the annual spring covered dish luncheon to be held on Thursday, May 2nd at 11:00 in Conway Hall.

For additional information about any of these events, please contact **Shirley Adamission** or **Margaretta Douglas**. Remember that guests are always welcomed to attend programs and field trips. One does not need to be a church member to participate or to join our group.

FUN NITES RETURN



Following a break so everyone could attend the Lenten Dinners, our monthly Family Fun Nites return on **Tuesday, April 16, at 6:29 pm**. All are invited to bring a covered dish (drinks, dessert and bread are provided) to share with friends in a time of good food and fellowship followed by a time of fun activity around the tables. Hope to see you there!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Tuesday, April 9

10 – 11 am

Library, Rm 4, downstairs Smith Hall

The book for discussion in April will be “Where Jesus Walked” written by R. Wayne Stacey

This is a new group getting started. If you will attend, could you please let us know so we can make plans. If you would like this group, but need a different time, please make that known too. (candy@grace.to or 407-898-6571)

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, April 8 at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room, second floor of John Calvin Memorial Hall for ninety minutes of study and fellowship.



We are currently studying The General Epistles, and this month's lesson is entitled "**The Bad Seeds**", and our Scripture reference is I John 2; 2 Peter 2—3; Jude 1—16. **The key idea is that even in God's household, God's children cannot escape the disruption caused by family dysfunction.** In order to overcome potentially destructive outside influences, God's children are instructed to dig more deeply within themselves to connect to the sources of truth, hope, and faith. Come visit us. You may like us and join our very congenial group. Everyone is welcome.



The College Scholarship Fund relies solely on contributions from groups within the church and individual members and friends. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to the church and indicate "Scholarship Fund".

June 1 is the deadline for our undergraduate college students to apply for financial assistance from the Scholarship Fund for next year's expenses.

Thank you, The Scholarship Committee



March at Small Blessings really marched by quickly with "**Hop for Haiti**", **Easter parties, field trips, Spring Break, registration for next year and many little ones' birthdays (even Dr. Seuss had a**

birthday.) All of our little ones are learning to march through life with independence by learning everything from **walking and using sippy cups, to learning colors and shapes, to learning math and word skills, to learning Bible verses and what Easter means to us.**

It's hard to believe we're marching toward the end of the year but there's still lots of fun and learning ahead.

~Ann Taylor



A grateful appreciation for our staff of wonderful ladies that serve as **Nursery attendants**, providing special love and tender care of the little ones placed in their keeping while Mom and Dad attend our Grace Covenant worship services and other church events and activities.

~The Hospitality Committee

The youth at Thornwell Home for Children have been collecting canned food for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" for 10 years now! And 2013 was a record-breaking year with the kids collecting 945 food items and \$383 for local food banks.



Summer Activities

SUMMER HELPING OPPORTUNITIES

Summer offers many opportunities for you to be involved with the children and youth of the Church Family.

Below are listed some of the areas that extra hands will be welcomed. Please call or e-mail for more information or to sign up.

Summer Sunday School Classes: From June 16 – August 18, we will need teachers for a Preschool, Combined Elementary and Combined Youth class. (as little as 1 week or as many as 12....you'll be blessed by your experience)

Vacation Bible School: the children will rotate to classes for Storytime, Music, Art, Recreation and Snack/Imagination Station. Choose which area excites you and then come share your excitement with the kids. We'll also need help with the closing day picnic. Youth helpers are a real blessing with this.

DECK: (Art Camp) helping hands are welcomed to assist the students in their arts and crafts adventures.

Small Blessings Vacation Bible School: for the third year, we will offer a VBS to the children at Small Blessings. Like with our church VBS, we will rotate the little ones through the various classes. All involved are truly blessed as we share God's love with these little ones. It can only happen if we have enough willing worker youth and adult.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of which exciting opportunity you can share in. Looking forward to hearing from you. (407-898-6571 or candy@grace.to)

Registrations for the Summer Activities are on the **KIOSK**.

Dates to remember:

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

“Kingdom Rock”: June 17 – 20
(Monday – Thursday) 9am – noon
for 3 years through 5th grade.

DECK (Art Camp)

“Book Journey”: completed K – 2nd,
July 8 – 10, 9 am – noon
Completed 3rd – 7th,
July 15 – 18, 9 am – 2 pm

MUSIC CAMP:

June 24 – 27, 9 am – noon,
for completed K – Middle School



Programs



ONLINE PRAYER “CHAIN” –

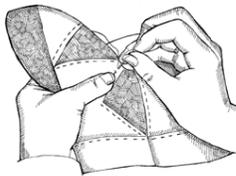
joins our Telephone Prayer Chain to send our prayerful concerns to God in a time of special illness or other needs. Do you possess simple computer Email skills? Here is a way you can put that skill to “heavenly” use. We invite all of our Grace Covenant family to join our Deacons and staff in offering prayers for our members and friends requesting prayer. Here is how it works: When a prayer request comes into the Church Office, an Email message will be send to all on the online prayer “chain” with the appropriate information. Within minutes, dozens of folk in our faith family can offer a prayer to our Lord in the name of our friend – or stranger. **If you would like to be notified of prayer requests, please call Rhonda in the Church Office (407-898-6571) or Email Rhonda at Rhonda@grace.to or Rev. Harvey Oster at harvo@grace.to - or place a note in the Sunday offering basket.** Remember: God answers our prayers!



Welcome
Our New
Members

GCPC Welcomes Connie Sablum

Connie worked for the airlines for 30 years and is now retired. She has one son, Jeffery Johnston who lives in Japan and is a teacher. She has three Grandchildren. Sakura Kathryn 11 years old, Ken Bruce 3 years old., and Mea Ileen 1 1/2 years old. **Welcome Connie!**



Still Stitchin' With Grace

Florine's Quilt

The Quilters have been very busy this spring. We continue our work weekly. **It is with great honor that we dedicate one of our quilts to our Relay for Life Team as our Grace's Angels Fundraiser during the weekend of May 3rd and 4th.** Please purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win our beautiful quilt that is dedicated to the memory of Florine Simpson. Florine began this group out of her own desire to minister to the children who were victims of cancer due to the experience of having had a grandchild who had had leukemia. Her granddaughter wanted something warm to comfort herself during chemo treatment and so the quilting ministry was born. Years later and hundreds of quilts later, Florine herself became a cancer patient. This time, Florine was battling Pancreatic Cancer. She fought the good fight and though her battle was short she knew her ministry would continue. It is her dream that her quilts will continue to minister to those that need them and that they bring comfort.

Please come to Relay...buy a ticket. Join our team. Walk the track....for Florine Simpson.



Thanks to all for the prayers and cards, and the gifts to **Still Stitchin With Grace** in memory of our Mother, **Florine Simpson**. We appreciate everything that was done for our family.

Cheri Stimmell, Judy Kelly and Gary Simpson

Our family thanks all of you at Grace Covenant for all the lovely, thoughtful cards and telephone calls in the passing of our beloved **Ted**. He is sorely missed. God bless you.

Dotti Elliott and Family

Many thanks to "M" Waddell for her leadership in planning and her wonderful team including Billie Baker, Jo Blair, Dawn Bordenkircher, Lacey Hadden, Tracy King, Judi Pearson, Carol and Frank Quiet, Susan Smith and Carmen Walker for the delicious Lenten dinners...and to all who provided the sweets to end the meal.

Lectionary for April

Sunday April 7th

2nd Sunday of Easter

Psalm 150 - John 20: 19 -31

Act 5:27-42- Rev. 1:1-4

Sunday April 14th - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Psalm 30 - John 21: 1-19

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) - Rev 5:11-14

Sunday, April 21st- 4th Sunday of Easter

Psalm 23- John 10:22-30

Acts 9:36-43 -Rev 7:9-17

Sunday, April 28th - 5th Sunday of Easter

Psalm 148 - John 13: 31-35

Acts 11:1-18-Rev. 21:1-6



APRIL 2013



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.GRACE.TO

Dr. Maynard Pittendreigh,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Harvey Oster,
Interim Associate Pastor
Candy Vander Weide,
Commissioned Lay Pastor



Youth Group Car Wash

For pooches and Porsches
Fundraiser to send our
Youth to Summer Camp!

Saturday
April 13th
10 a.m. To 2 p.m.
At the church!



and Canine Wash!

April

Happy Birthday



1
Ruth Nordman
Edwina Pearce

2
Randi Sutphin

4
Paula Craig
Bob Patterson

5
Candace Pandolfo
Phyllis Cornell
Torey Lamour

6
Kaden Schlichenmaier
Joyce Ann McGregor

7
Riley Kelly
Cooper Turner
Mary Widick

8
Stephen Pesquira

9
Helen Greenlaw
Wilma Beekman
Blake Neal
Hailey Bass

10
Mark Durham
Ian Smith
Lexi Stevens
Judy Riley

11
Derek Diel
Jacob Orlando
Bill Quirk

12
Noah Chen

13
Bill Finney

14
Betty Mason
Rosemary Van Allen

16
Jane Tracy

17
Cassandra Whitten

19
Dody Monk
Kaylee Sparks
Curtis Giesecke
Hugh Holland, III

20
Leah Benner
Joyce Lunn
Chris Bass
Heather McGill

21
Maggie Connor
Steven Seaver
Ralph Staschke

22
Kathy Gallagher

24
Ellen Gronvold
Alex Munson
Kurt Petersen
Barbara Pandolfo
David Alchin

25
Barbara Craig
Bailey Talbott
Veronica Lamour
Kasen Schlichenmaier

27
Ellen Mask
Natalie Ramirez

28
Dottie Wood
Robert Taylor
Ava Capatosto
Skylin Whitmer

29
Chi Nguyen

30
Jack Matthews



Happy Anniversary

2
Chris & Debbie Cooper

3
Bobby & Donna Hedrick

4
Dick & Dee Wilkins

6
Richard & Glenda Branham
Chip & Susan Caray

7
Jim & Gail Evans

13
Frank & Janie Garrett

18
Al & Mildred Turner
Kristen & Alfredo Stieffel

19
Scott & Joyce Marhoeffer

20
Manuel & Tracy Umpierre
Donald & Maxine Gokee

24
John & Gina Stevens

26
Chris & Gail Barley

29
Lewis & Phyllis Ciavaglia

30
Dan Jr. & Stacie Kimble