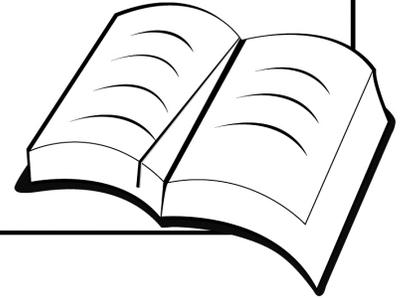


# GRACE notes

GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



January 2019 — Volume 62, Issue 1



1. IN GENESIS *He fashions you with His hands.*
2. IN EXODUS *He delivers you from slavery.*
3. IN LEVITICUS *He gives you access to Himself.*
4. IN NUMBERS *He shelters you in cities of refuge.*
5. IN DEUTERONOMY *He guides you with His hand.*
6. IN JOSHUA *He gives you divine purpose.*
7. IN JUDGES *He shows mercy in spite of repeated failures.*
8. IN RUTH *He grafts you into His family.*
- 9-10. IN SAMUEL *He makes the insignificant significant.*
- 11-12. IN KINGS *He esteems you by His faithfulness.*
- 13-14. IN CHRONICLES *He makes your prayer powerful.*
- 15-16. IN EZRA & NEHEMIAH *He restores you & equips you.*
17. IN ESTHER *He makes you royalty.*
18. IN JOB *He sustains you in suffering.*
19. IN PSALMS *He draws you close & listens for your voice.*
20. IN PROVERBS *He reveals His wisdom to you.*
21. IN ECCLESIASTES *He gives meaning.*
22. IN SONG OF SOLOMON *He draws you to chase Him.*
23. IN ISAIAH *He reveals the Savior to you.*
- 24-25. IN JEREMIAH & LAMENTATIONS *He gives you hope.*
- 26-27. IN EZEKIEL & DANIEL *the Lord joins you in the fire.*
28. IN HOSEA *God pursues you to buy you back.*
29. IN JOEL *He blesses you when you repent.*
30. IN AMOS *He bears your burdens.*
31. IN OBADIAH *He keeps His covenant to you.*
32. IN JONAH *He uses an imperfect man for His perfect plan.*
33. IN MICAH *He invites you to walk humbly with Him.*
34. IN NAHUM *He comforts you.*
35. IN HABAKKUK *He places your lowliness in high places.*
36. IN ZEPHANIAH *He sings over you with great joy.*
37. IN HAGGAI *God makes His dwelling among you.*
38. IN ZECHARIAH *He assures you of His coming.*
39. IN MALACHI *God pours out His blessing on you.*
- 40-43. IN THE GOSPELS *God puts on human flesh to save you.*
44. IN ACTS *He gives you His Spirit.*
45. IN ROMANS *He works all things together for your good.*
- 46-47. IN CORINTHIANS *He corrects, teaches, & loves you.*
48. IN GALATIANS *He sets you free.*
49. IN EPHESIANS *He calls you His workmanship.*
50. IN PHILIPPIANS *He gives you joy.*
51. IN COLOSSIANS *He completes you.*
- 52-53. IN THESSALONIANS *He presents you with future hope.*
- 54-55. IN TIMOTHY *He offers you counsel & encouragement.*
56. IN TITUS *He equips you for good works.*
57. IN PHILEMON *He turns your slavery into brotherhood.*
58. IN HEBREWS *He invites you to come before His throne.*
59. IN JAMES *He teaches you practical religion.*
- 60-61. IN PETER *He gives you victory over suffering.*
- 62-64. IN THE THREE EPISTLES OF JOHN *He assures you of eternity & invites you to walk in His light, life & love.*
65. IN JUDE *your God tenderly keeps you from falling & presents you faultless before His throne*
66. IN REVELATION *He bestows the ultimate honor upon you, as He receives you as His beloved & treasured bride.*

Dear Church Family and Friends,

I thank you very much for your many prayers and expressions of love while I was so sick. "Prayer is the best medicine." That came to me a few days ago and we decided that would make a great bumper sticker to share with our wonderful loving friends. We will have a stack of them for anyone who wants one, just let me know. I will proudly display mine on our van.

I entered ORMC (Orlando Health) on October 17, 2015, in very bad condition and was there for about 2 years in and out battling the pneumonia I was suffering from. I've been home still fighting for the last year, but still need and appreciate all of your prayers. With the help of many wonderful Doctors and Nurses, I'm working at getting off the ventilator and back to living my life; going back to church and back to my job as a greeter each week. Also, I'm looking forward to getting back to my favorite hobbies, bowling and volunteering around town.

It was so nice seeing everyone on Thanksgiving and at the recent Sunday School party on December 2nd. Also, I hope to see many more of you at the Christmas service this year.

Life is good and our family has received so many blessings in our lives. Many, many thanks for caring. For that I will always be grateful.

God Bless,  
Tom Evans



Thank you to all the willing workers who were behind the scenes making the season special at the Alternative Christmas Celebration, the Annual Picnic, the Hanging of the Greens, the Holiday Brunch, Making Memories and the Reindeer Games.

Y'all are the BEST!

Candy

Thank you, Grace Covenant family, for your generous donations during the holiday food drive. Ten bags of food were taken to Eccleston Elementary School and also ten bags to Dover Shores! You helped to make Christmas happier for needy children in our community.

The Outreach Committee

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please pray for our young adults who are attending the College Montreat Conference January 2-5. Pray for travel mercies and that Christ reveals Himself in a unique way so that they may be better missionaries back at their school campuses.

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Please be in prayer for the Interim Pastor Search Committee.

*Ruth Circle*



Ruth Circle enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch in December after our Bible study on God's Promise. We collected many items to take to Servant's Heart for the children and babies in our ongoing commitment to their ministry.

We look forward to the new year with our continued emphasis on our Bible Study and Christian fellowship. All are welcome to join us. We meet the 2nd Monday at 10 am. If you have any questions call Barbara Hart.

Send Grace Notes items to Jane Heppner at [jane.gracenotes@gmail.com](mailto:jane.gracenotes@gmail.com)

**The deadline for the next issue is January 15th.**

Please include Grace Notes in the title of the email.



**Inside this issue:**

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**See the church calendar online:**  
<http://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/>



This is Family Promise.....  
 come, share a smile, a conversation;  
 don't turn away--meet their eyes  
 and see Jesus' face.

Grace Covenant will be assisting at Conway Methodist Church.....**January 6 - 12, 2019**  
**Contact Diana Ibarra for more information.**

### **If We Were Homeless**

*\*Especially for Sally & Rob*

If we were homeless  
 Camping in a woodland,  
 Our shelter a simple nylon tent,

I would want an end to our uncharted dwellings beneath the stars—  
 But, short of that,

After the coats, blankets, and cast-off garments  
 From generous families' seasons past  
 It would help to have a helpful bureaucrat  
 To push the system, rather than the people who need it—

Or, short of that, a first-aid kit,  
 Excellent mosquito repellent,  
 Or a place to wash every day  
 As we preserve propriety and self-respect.

More than that,  
 I would like a nod, or hello  
 From those we pass each day  
 And to lock eyes with *one* person  
 Who won't turn away.  
 I would like to share a smile,  
 And a conversation ...

Yes, we would talk, my visitor and I,  
 About the politics of pain:  
 Those who have, those who have not,  
 Those who can not, or will not  
 Stand another day.

Then I would guide my guest  
 Along the brushwood path  
 To our soft-walled impermanent home,  
 For biscuits, more talk,  
 And I would brew two cups of battery-powered, boilerplate tea.

Sara Schlossman 2004

Sally and Rob live in the woods off Goldenrod Rd. near UCF.

\*As interviewed in "Welcome to the Jungle," article by Emily Ruff, published in *Orlando Weekly*, 1/29/04

Sara Schlossman is an Orlando poet. She is associate producer of "Poetic Logic," which airs Friday's at 7pm within the 90.7FM WMFE radio program *The Arts Connection*.

## How is your Per Capita Gift Used?

Your Central Florida Presbytery's mission is to equip, strengthen, support and unite its member churches. Two types of financial support are provided to the Presbytery – mission and per capita.

Mission support is provided by donations from the Outreach budget. Presbytery uses these funds to minister to others locally and abroad, for evangelism and new church development, training and educational resources, youth and collegiate ministries and pastoral care, etc.

Per capita support goes toward the payment of administrative, legislative and judicial expenses of the Presbytery. These dollars support the call system for workers, publication of the "Book of Order" and "Book of Confessions", meetings of Presbytery and its committees as well as other important functions. Per capita giving is totally separate from mission support and is NOT provided from the Outreach Budget, nor is it included in members' pledged giving.

Grace Covenant's per capita contribution to Presbytery this year will be \$9,648.

**Please support your Central Florida Presbytery and your church by making your per capita contribution of \$19.00 per member.**

**Make your check out to Grace Covenant, noting "Per Capita" on the memo line.**

You may also donate online, using the Grace Covenant app.

## DONATION REQUEST

Do you know anyone who received a new TV for Christmas? What are they...or you...doing with your old one?

The TV used in the Youth Room for our announcements, song lyrics, and lessons has decided not to play with us any more. So we're in need of a new (used) flat-screen TV that's at least 50" large. It can either come on its own stand, or wall-mount apparatus.

Please contact Mike at [mike@grace.to](mailto:mike@grace.to) if you can help.



## It's a Girl!

**Presley Marie Whitmer**  
was born December 2, 2018.

She is the daughter of  
Zach and Rachel Whitmer,  
and the granddaughter of  
Harry and Jenny Whitmer.



**Saturday, February 2, 2019, 8:30 am – 12:15 pm**  
**at Markham Woods Presbyterian Church, Lake Mary**

This is an annual leadership education event for: teaching elders, ruling elders, deacons, clerks of session, church educators - professional and volunteer, youth and young adult ministry staff and volunteers and church committee members.

Workshops are offered with special emphasis on Church Growth, Leadership Development, Congregational Care, Basics of Presbyterianism, and Spiritual Growth.

You may choose two workshops to attend. Cost for the day is \$6.00 which includes a morning snack.

Registration and workshop information may be found on the Kiosk, the visitor table, the church office or online at: [www.cfpresbytery.org/equip.html](http://www.cfpresbytery.org/equip.html).

# ROOTED Student Ministry Schedule

## January 6 and 20

Sundays

5:30 - 7:00 pm

### Rooted Youth Group

We'll have awesome dinners, games, music, prayers, announcements and a lesson. Bring your friendz!!!

**Sunday School** meets every Sunday, 9:30 - 10:30am, in the Youth Room with **FREE** do-nuts, juice and **Jesus!!!**

## January 19

Saturday

10:15 am - 9:00 pm

### Rooted Day of Winter Events

You'll need to sign up by noon, Wednesday, January 16.

It's a day of doing wintery-type things so invite your friends!

You'll need to bring lunch and snack money **plus** \$20 which covers transportation, all our events, and dinner.

Please RSVP by noon, Thurs., Dec. 13.

### Please bring your friends to anything we do!

They don't have to be members of GCPC, Presbyterian, or even believers but you **DO** need to tell them that the Gospel of Jesus **will** be taught in some kind of way.

For more details on our events and other news....

**you can friend us on Facebook at: Grace Covenant PC Youth,  
and on Instagram at: rootedgcpc.**



Small Blessings welcomed in a Happy New Year 2019 with happy children and happy staff!

Chapel with Ms. Candy and the children continues in Grace Covenant's sanctuary on Wednesdays. In the new year, VPK-4's will officially begin "reading circle". All the Small Blessings children will learn about God's wondrous winter season, hibernation and various winter animals.

This year the children will continue to grow academically, emotionally, physically and in their knowledge of God in their lives.

Blessings to all SB staff and families in the 2019 school year!



*We extend our  
Christian love  
and sympathy to ~*

The family of Lt. Col. Ray Shewfelt who died on November 19, 2018, in Deland, Florida.

Karl Kesler and Nancy Nordman and family. Karl's wife and Nancy's sister, Sue Nordman, passed away on Wednesday, November 28, 2018. A service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at Grace Covenant.

Mark Durham and family. Mark's brother, Matt Durham died on Monday, December 10, 2018.

Tom and Joann Sanders and family. Their son, Thomas (Tad) died on December 14, 2018.

The family of Mary Satterfield who died on Monday, December 17, 2018.



## Message from Maynard

It will not be long before I retire and a new interim pastor will arrive at our church. This is a good time for our officers and church members to ponder the question, “**how can we support our next pastor and his or her family?**”

**Pray for the pastor.** This is not simply my giving a cliché preacher answer – this is a vital thing you can do. I have spent hours in prayer for my church members. I worry about each of you as I would my own children. Your pastor needs your prayers. This is where your encouragement begins. There is one member in this church who has texted me every week with a copy of his prayer for me. That’s 52 weeks a year for six years! I cannot tell you how much that has meant to me. I’ve had church members pray for and with me and I cannot tell you how uplifting this is.

**Protect your pastor.** Jesus sends us into the world, and into the church, like sheep among wolves. There are times when church members attack the pastor. This goes back to the beginning of the church. Paul said in the New Testament, “Alexander, the metal worker, did me great harm. The Lord will deal with him.” Don’t let those Alexanders impair the work of your next pastor. Be positive and supportive – you are all working together for the good of the church.

**Allow your pastor to be sick, to grieve, or to attend to family.** My mother died while I was in my first pastorate. The elders insisted that I take much more time off than is customarily offered by employers. One of the elders said, “You are our pastor and you’ve helped us grieve. It’s time for us to be your pastor and help you to grieve.” I never forgot those elders. Your next pastor will be human. He or she will get sick – and will need time to heal. He or she will have deaths in the family and will need time to grieve. He or she will have family and will need time to deal with them.

**Time off.** God mandates a day off. A day of rest is so important to God that it is part of the Ten Commandments. Yet, many churches resent pastors taking a day or two off every week. Time off is essential for the spiritual and physical health of your pastor. AND every employee in every line of work performs best when given time off. Taking time off has been especially difficult for me at Grace Covenant, because we did not have the Associate Pastor that was planned when I came here, and after a few months we did not have the part-time parish associate. Encourage your pastor to take time off.

**Vacation.** I have often told staff members that failure to take vacation hurts them and the church. It hurts the church because we grow too dependent on one individual. A church needs more than one person who can write checks, produce the weekly bulletin, know the cleaning routine, lead Sunday School teachers, or provide pastoral care. No matter what the position, pastor included, vacations for staff members is good for the church and the staff member.

(continued on page 7)

Message from Maynard (continued from page 6)

Remember, pastors are among those workers like nurses, doctors, restaurant workers and others who don't get weekends off with families and who have to work on holidays like Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas. Allow your pastor vacation time so he or she can return refreshed and better able to serve you.

**Criticize.** Most church members do this very poorly. Yes, they criticize, but they do so behind the pastor's back. A church member might have a party at home and entertain the guests by sharing stories of the real or perceived short comings of the pastor. In extreme situations a person might even secretly start a petition to have the congregation vote to dismiss the pastor. What good does this do? None at all. If you have a complaint or a critical comment, make it constructive by sharing it with the pastor. If that doesn't work, go to the Personnel Committee.

**Remember your vow.** The congregational members and officers will make a vow when you install your next pastor. Just as the new pastor is asked questions, so will the congregation have to answer questions. One vow you make is **“to pay him (her) fairly and provide for his (her) welfare as he (she) works among us; to stand by him (her) in trouble and share his (her) joys? Will we listen to the word he (she) preaches, welcome his (her) pastoral care, and honor his (her) authority as he (she) seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?”** Those words come from the Book of Order and are asked of every congregation when the pastor is installed. Giving an annual raise, standing by the pastor in times of trouble, listening to the sermons and respecting authority of the pastor is your promised vow. Don't forget it.

So many of you have been supportive of me in my ministry with you, and I appreciate this. I pray that you will be as supportive of the next pastor. Helping your interim pastor succeed will enable Grace Covenant to succeed!



## Worship Committee

The Worship Committee needs someone to help Don & Sarah Lein **prepare the monthly communion elements**. After seven years of doing this, Marian Bauer is 'retiring' from the monthly preparation.

The Saturday before the First Sunday of the month is the day the juice is put into the cups. The bread is put on the trays on Sunday morning. After the second service the trays are emptied and cleaned.

If you are interested in serving in this way or would like more information contact Marian Bauer. If more than one person is interested, that would be **WONDERFUL!**

## Would you be willing to usher on Sundays?

We need people who see this as a way to serve others. We need more people willing to help....to greet people as you give them a bulletin; come forward to receive the offering; answer questions people may have; help them to a seat.

If more people are willing to help, then when others need to have a time away, there will be someone to step in. We will provide training.

Contact Marian Bauer, Worship Committee Chairperson.

**JANUARY 2019**



**GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Sunday Worship:** 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

**Office Hours:**

Monday–Thursday: 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.–noon

1655 Peel Ave., Orlando, FL 32806

Phone: 407.898.6571

E-mail: churchoffice@grace.to

WWW.GRACE.TO

Dr. Maynard Pittendreigh  
Senior Pastor

Candy Vander Weide  
Commissioned Lay Pastor

Non-Profit Organization  
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Orlando, FL

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To:



## Fellowship Opportunities

### **FAMILY FUN NITE**

**Tuesday, January 15**

**6:29 pm**

Conway Hall



Come join us for some good food,  
fellowship and fun.

Covered dish dinner (drinks, dessert  
and bread provided) followed by  
fun and fellowship around the tables.

We'd love to have you with us!

### **FOURTH THURSDAY**

### **AT THE GARDEN IS BACK!!**

**Thursday, January 24**

**6:30 pm**



After a break due to the holidays, we invite  
everyone to Fourth Thursdays at the Garden!

There is no program - just a time of fellowship  
around the table at the Olive Garden Restaurant  
on East Colonial. Hope to see you there!!