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# CE notes

GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



May 2019 — Volume 62, Issue 5

## Vacation Bible School

June 10 – 13

9:00 am – noon

(for age 3 years through completed 5th grade)

### “To Mars and Beyond”



Focusing on the verse, “Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us.” (Eph 3:20), the week will be a time for us to explore where God’s power can take us. We will reach for the stars and encounter the limitless power and love of God.

Registrations for children and for adult helpers are now available on the Kiosk and in the church office.

**Don’t delay....REGISTER TODAY!!!**

A **planning meeting** for those who are helping with VBS will be held On Monday, **May 6**, in the conference room upstairs John Calvin Memorial Hall at **7:00 pm**.

If you are interested in helping or are even just considering helping, you are invited to come. For more information contact Candy at 407-898-5471 or [candy@grace.to](mailto:candy@grace.to).

## Sunday May 5, 2019

After the 10:45 worship service, on May 5, 2019, there will be a brief **Congregational Meeting** for the purpose of voting on new Deacons.

Please plan to attend.



**CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**



## Music Camp

June 24 - 27

Mon. thru Thurs.

with a performance on Sunday, June 30.

Registration - \$20/\$10 for additional siblings.

Ukuleles = \$33.00

Registration forms are on the kiosk.

Adult & high school volunteers needed.

For more information contact

Barbara Browning.

### Inside this issue:

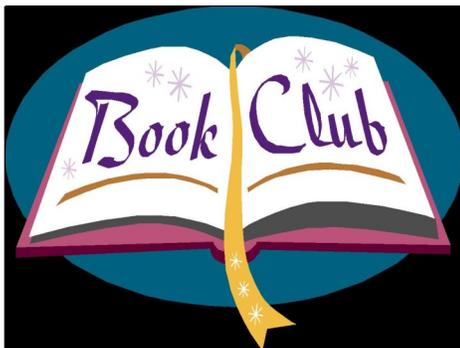
**Book Buzz (Book Club)**.....2

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**See the church calendar online:**

[http://www.grace.to/  
announcements/weekly-calendar/](http://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/)



**Do you like to read?**

Join us for the inaugural meeting of the **“BOOK BUZZ” !!**

**Monday, May 20, at 7:00 pm in the Library**  
(Room 4, Smith Hall)

For discussion ease, the group number will be limited to 12, so please email your plan to attend to [candy@grace.to](mailto:candy@grace.to).

Our first book will be: **“Abundance: A Novel of Marie Antoinette”** by Sena Jeter Naslund. It can be purchased used on Amazon for \$3.47 and up.

With penetrating insight and with wondrous narrative skill, Sena Jeter Naslund offers an intimate, fresh, heartbreaking, and dramatic reimagining of this truly compelling woman that goes far beyond popular myth—and she makes a bygone time of tumultuous change as real to us as the one we are living in now.

Initially we will plan to meet every 6 weeks to discuss a chosen book. Genres will vary. Bring your suggestions for the next book.

***We extend our Christian love and sympathy to ~***



Terry and Sally Schlichenmaier and family on the death of Terry’s mother, Anita Schlichenmaier, who died Sunday, March 24, 2019.

Dear Friends at Grace Covenant:

Thank you so very much for all the prayers and cards when I was I was ill in the beginning of March! (and for the birthday cards, too). It helped me very much in my recovery! I’m not back to being the 'energizer bunny' again; but I am getting close!

God bless you all.  
Marian Bauer



Thank you ALL for helping make our 4th annual Grace on the Greens golf fundraiser a HUGE success on April 27th. Proceeds from the tournament will help off-set costs to our summer conference trips to Montreat, NC and Triennium, in Indiana!!!

The Rooted Youth Group



A “Thank You” letter was received from Thornwell for our contribution of \$625.00.



Thank you to everyone who showed up for the church work day! You made a difference!

***From the PW Council~***

**Blankets!**  
**Blankets!**  
**Blankets!**



Thanks to the congregation we collected **\$681** and a check was sent to support Church World Services.

We were able to purchase **68 blankets!**

On behalf of the women of the church, thank you for your generous support of this important mission.

Billie Baker  
Chairman of the Blanket Fund

## The “Ins” and “Outs” of Church Transformation

As Christians we are called to gather and go. We gather for worship; and we go out to care and serve and share the good news of the gospel. That is our identity and our calling.

We live out that identity and calling when we actually gather and go. But for many Christians these days, gathering for worship has become less than a regular event. And going out to care and serve and share the good news has become for some churches more about what’s going on at the church, because that may be all there is time and money for.

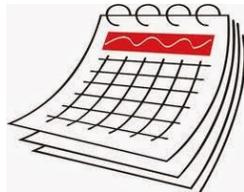
Churches have become inward-looking. Our identity and calling as Christians has not changed; but we are living out that identity and calling differently. We gather with the fewer and fewer of us who are still showing up. We care mostly for one another. Maybe we serve on a church committee or two. And our idea of making new disciples is limited to Sunday school and youth group for the children of the church.

What if we were more outward-going? What if we also worshiped off-hours, outside the walls, or on-line? What if we called it community care instead of congregational care? What if we went out to engage the next generation of believers where they live and work and play, instead of thinking we could ever be cool or hip or trendy enough that they would just start coming to church?

I know I’m tragically unhip! But that’s okay. If you’re like me, that just means getting creative and trying other ways to go out and make connections for Christ! It’s what we’re called to do.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Melanie

### News from Nancy Nordman



My calendar tells me the big dates for May are:

- May 2, National Day of Prayer
- May 27, who could forget Memorial Day

And you’d better NOT FORGET Mother’s Day on May 12!

But one of my favorite days comes 10 days after Ascension Day....which is May 30th....but you already knew that!

**H** Our university scholarship student, Midelson Fleurissaint, finally got his grades for the first term (things move slowly in Haiti!) and had a B average!

**A** Conditions in Haiti are still unsettled, but classes and most aspects of daily life have resumed. However, the director at Papillion Studios, where we buy the jewelry and other crafts that are sold as fund-raisers for our projects in Haiti, reports they are having difficulty getting diesel fuel to power their generator and thus run the kilns that fire their clay beads and other ceramics. News from the **Good Shepherd School** is that groundbreaking for a school library building has taken place! Please keep our friends in Haiti and all the people of that country in your prayers.

**I**



Where has the school year gone? Once again it is time to say "Good Bye" to our Pre-Kindergarteners and move all the other classes up to new age groups. It is both a happy and sad time for teachers and families who think of SBCC as their "home away from home"!

The four year old classes (VPK) will have their graduation ceremony May 23, 2019, at 7:00PM in the GCPC Sanctuary. The younger ages will hold their promotion program May 16, 2019, at 9:30AM. GCPC members are encouraged to come to both celebrations.

Congratulations to Mrs. Judy Redtallack on her retirement from SBCC May 23rd. Judy and her husband, Mr. Bruce, have been with SBCC for sixteen years, with Judy preparing breakfasts, lunches and snacks, and Bruce doing school menu shopping and handyman work. Many of the children will not eat corn dogs, fish sticks or meatballs unless cooked by Mrs. Judy (even if their parents use the same brand and follow the box instructions)! It is better when Mrs. Judy cooks it!

Those of you who know Judy may want to stop by school this month to wish her well in retirement or send her a card.....

Mrs. Judy Redtallack  
SBCC  
1647 Peel Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32806



*Heather Robbins*

*John Sewell*

At our meeting in April the members of Ruth Circle assembled **42 Easter Baskets** for children in need as identified by Servant's Heart. Chloe Battle, director of Servant's Heart, has conveyed to me how beautiful the baskets were and appreciation to the women of Ruth Circle.



I would personally like to thank all of our members who brought all kinds of goodies to go in the baskets like little stuffed animals, religious books, plastic eggs to put little toys and candy, bubbles, etc. and I could go on and on. The assembly line and feeling of cooperation to put the baskets together was Fabulous!

**May will be our last meeting until September.** We will conclude our wonderful study of *God's Promise* led by Winnie Rutherford which has produced great discussion!! We look forward to the fall and a new study and once again we welcome any and all who would like to join us.

Barbara Hart

### **FAMILY FUN NITE...**

#### **Back after break for Lenten Dinners!**

Tuesday, May 21 at 6:29 pm  
in Conway Hall

Always....good food (covered dish  
dinner: drinks, bread and dessert provided)

Always...good fun.

Fellowship and games around the tables.

All are invited to come join in the fun!



### **FOURTH THURSDAY AT THE GARDEN**

Thursday, May 23, 6:30 pm at the Olive Garden Restaurant, East Colonial. No plan...no agenda. Just friends and family joining together for good food and great fellowship. Don't miss this time to make new friends and spend time with those you already know. Hope to see you there!



# ROOTED Student Ministry Schedule

**May 4**  
 Saturday  
 9:00am - 5:00pm - Youth Room  
**Youth & Young Adult Planning Retreat**  
 See info. below. \*

**May 5**  
 Sunday  
 5:15 - 7:00 pm  
**Rooted Youth Group**  
 We'll have awesome dinners, games, music, prayers, announcements and a lesson. Bring your friendz!!!

**May 11**  
 Saturday  
**Mother/Daughter Event**  
 Details are being finalized so please watch for them in emails and on our Facebook page.

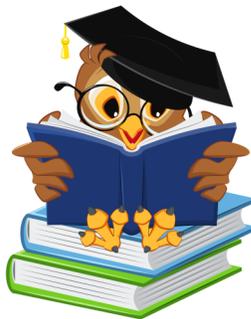
**May 19**  
 Sunday  
**Youth Sunday**  
 See info. below. \*\*

**June 2**  
 Sunday  
**Give Kids the World**  
 You must sign up with Mike by noon on Tuesday, **May 28th**.

**Sunday School** meets every Sunday, 9:30 - 10:30am, in the Youth Room, with an occasional Walk to Wawa, with **FREE** donuts, juice and **Jesus!!!**

**\* Youth & Young Adult Planning Retreat**  
 Saturday, May 4  
 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

If you are interested in giving feedback from this past year, AND want to share in planning the summer and 2019-2020 ROOTED activities, please let Mike know by noon, Thursday, May 2nd. He'll provide drinks, snacks, information packets and lunch.



**REMINDER**

Submit your application for the GCPC Scholarship by **June 1st**.

**\*\* Youth Sunday — May 19**

Calling ALL recent college graduates and graduating high school seniors! May 19 is our next Youth Sunday and we would love to acknowledge your accomplishment in that Sunday's bulletin. For college graduates, we would like: your name, college, type of degree and area of study. For high school seniors, we would like: your name, high school and the next step in your path (name of college/trade school, military branch, work plans, etc.) PLEASE give this information to Mike by Monday, May 13th. Thank you!

**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.**

## Spiritual Gifts Safari

The church office is on safari hunting for volunteers with special spiritual gifts:

**Photographers**—If you are a regular at church functions and have the spiritual gift of getting your phone out fast enough to catch candid shots that make for memorable (and sharable) moments, we could use your talents to increase our social media presence.

**Phone callers**—If you use your phone as an actual phone and have the spiritual gift of gab, we could use help calling through the directory to reach out to members to update our rolls.

**Sign changers**—If you enjoy the outdoors and have the spiritual gift of spelling, we could use help keeping the sign on Peel Ave. updated regularly. Content for the sign and cold drinks supplied.

**Money counters**—If you are free on the occasional Monday morning and have the spiritual gift of counting, we could use more offering counters to serve on a rotating basis. Training required.

Contact the church office if you want to be part of the new things God is doing at Grace.



**Mothers are worth a lot more in salary than most people would imagine. The national median salary, according to salary.com, for a typical stay-at-home mom in the United States would be to the tune of \$118,899!**

**The greatest reward is not monetary. Prov. 31:28: “Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.” Nothing thrills the heart of a Godly mom more than to be appreciated and cherished by her husband and children.**

### *Changes around the church campus...*

New signs will be going up soon that will direct newcomers and visitors to buildings around the church campus where events are happening. As his Eagle Scout project Dylan Umpierre is designing and installing signs under the supervision of the Building & Grounds Committee and with financial assistance from Outreach. Dylan has been approved by Session to raise matching funds from members of the congregation who want to support the project.

New chairs were delivered recently to the sanctuary thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. The new chairs replace the temporary folding chairs being used in the choir loft.



# Session Summaries

March 21, 2019

The financial statements of the church were presented which reflect that the church continues to operate at a loss. The February deficit was \$11,157 and year-to-date deficit is \$22,863. The need for financial accountability and transparency was stressed as Session takes action to ensure financial stability and sustainability.

The Interim Pastor reported on her first ten days at the church and goals for the interim. An overview of the pastor search process was presented for discussion at the April Session meeting.

Reports were received from standing committees and boards of the church and the following actions taken:

- Finance Committee directed to supply detailed reporting on Foundation distributions to Outreach; and
- Session ratified the transfer of designated funds used to cover operating shortfalls year-to-date.

Other business:

Roger Clawson was received as an affiliate member (home church Westminster, Salem, OR) Christian sympathy was expressed to the Kimani family upon the death of their son Eric. (Funeral, March 21 at GCPC.)

The church retreat scheduled for Memorial Day weekend was canceled and a request will be made for a refund of the deposit paid last year. The Nominating Committee is working to fill two vacancies on the board of deacons. Pastor Vander Weide reported on the spring meeting of Central Florida Presbytery.

The April Session meeting was moved from April 18 (Maundy Thursday) to Wednesday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

April 17, 2019

A modest increase in giving in March meant income exceeded expenses. Session and staff are working to implement new procedures for reporting and authorizing spending so that budget shortfalls from earlier months and from last year can be made up as quickly as possible.

The Interim Pastor reported on revised goals for the interim to include redevelopment and growth. An overview of the pastor search process was presented.

Reports were received from standing committees and boards of the church and the following actions taken:

- Dylan Umpierre approved to raise funds within the congregation for his Eagle Scout project installing new signage at the church;
- recommendation to the corporation to authorize the SBCC assistant director to sign on behalf of SBCC.

Other business:

Members Debbie Munson and Carol Castagno were nominated by the ONC for election to the Deacon Board at a Congregational meeting, Sunday, May 5 after the 10:45 service.

Elders "M" Waddell and J. Pate were appointed to receive new members, if any, at a called Session meeting on Sunday, April 28.

As part of updating the membership rolls, several members were removed by transfer or request. Christian sympathy was expressed to the Schlichenmaier family upon the death of Anita Schlichenmaier. (Funeral, April 13 at GCPC.)

**MAY 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](mailto:churchoffice@grace.to)

[WWW.GRACE.TO](http://WWW.GRACE.TO)

Rev. Melanie Ruta

Interim Pastor

Candy Vander Weide

Commissioned Lay Pastor

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To:

**NOTICE  
TO  
ALL**

**June and July issues**  
of  
Grace Notes  
will be combined into  
one issue.

Please submit articles  
for **both months by**  
**May 15th**

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



**Saturday, May 4, 2019  
1:30 pm - Conway Hall**

Doors open at 1:00 pm.

***Handbag Bingo***

**(...where the prizes are purses!)**

Tickets = **\$10.00**

Light refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women's Council  
to benefit the  
**GCPC Scholarship Fund!!**

For more information contact :  
Jane Heppner