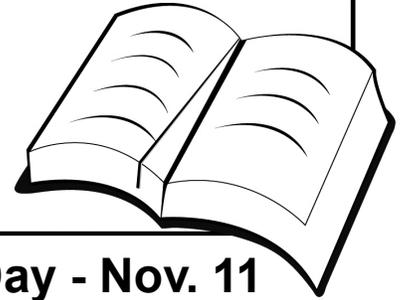


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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



November 2018 — Volume 61, Issue 10

Message from Maynard - Veterans Day - Nov. 11

When I began observing a Veterans Sunday a few years ago, not everyone in our church felt it was appropriate. I thought I would share why I have continued to emphasize this day in our worship.

When I was 30 years old, I served a church that was about to celebrate its 100th anniversary. We were compiling a history of the church and I interviewed many church members. Naturally I wanted to visit our oldest member – Frank W. Allen, age 91. He had been a member of the Warrenton Presbyterian Church for 91 of the church's 100 years! With his permission

I recorded the interview. After turning on the recorder, I asked first about the photograph in his hallway of a young man in uniform. Mr. Allen confirmed it was him as a soldier during World War I.

When I inquired about his time in that war, he was silent for a moment and then said, "Nobody cares." I insisted that people did care, but he repeated, "Nobody cares anymore."

When I continued to ask about what he remembered, he said, "The young men. We were glad to go to war, all of us young men. But the war was different from what we'd thought it'd be. A lot of fine young men died of that terrible Mustard Gas. Boys came back without legs or arms or sometimes without their right mind. Weren't no fault of their own. A lot of good boys died. We fought the war to make the world safe, but nobody cares anymore. Nobody remembers."

I asked what he remembered, and he said, "Never been away from home much. Heard about war from the folks 'round here. You know that big old monument up on the town square," referring to the town's Civil War monument. "It went up not long 'fore we all went off to France. Think it was 1913. Maybe. Veterans were there from the Civil War when that thing went up. Talked about fighting the Yankees. So, a bunch of us later on go and fight in France thinking it'd be easy. Thought it'd be exciting. We were so excited. So glad. Those old men from the (Civil) War told us we didn't know what we were talking about. They were right. I was in the

Army. We were, the Americans, we were in France. We were in the 30th. Got my patch. Three X's. Old Hickory. I remember first meeting a lot of British soldiers. Some didn't like us. We were late, they said we were late. They'd suffered. They'd suffered, a lot of them. Some of them liked us a lot. Treated us right well. What I remember most was the Argonne Forest. You know what the Hindenburg Line was?"

When I admitted that I didn't, Mr. Allen gave a snort and slammed his palm on the table, turning his chair slightly and looking away from me. I asked him to tell me about it. He continued to sit in silence, and I asked him again, telling him that I would like to know.

At last he continued to speak, "There was one day of a lot of fog. I remember that fog so well. Couldn't see a hand in front of your face. In the fog, you could hear in the fog a lot of. Well, you could hear a lot in that fog. There were guns. Cannons. Artillery. Noises were all around us. And I could hear..."

He sat in silence for a moment, then asked me, "Do you know what it sounds like when a boy dies? That's what I remember. I remember that more than anything. The sound of the boys as they died. There was other days. Mustard gas is a terrible thing. I saw it coming toward us once. We saw it and we knew what it was. Put our gas masks on and waited. We just waited quietly. Waiting to die. Wind turned it away though."

After a long silence, Mr. Allen said, "That's enough. Let's talk about the history of the church. That's what you come for. I'm done with this."

I recorded this interview with Mr. Allen in April, 1986. I did his funeral that October.

Every year, I get a number of questions about why we have the Veterans Day service. **It is because, I am always haunted by Mr. Allen's words, "Nobody remembers. Nobody cares."** Mr. Allen is one reason why we have this service, because **we should all be haunted by his words that nobody cares and we should care.**





In October we continued our wonderful Bible study and welcomed several new members.

Our November meeting will be on the **12th, Monday**, at **10 am** in the conference room by the office. We will have a guest speaker , Chloe Battle from Servant's Heart, who will give us an update on the charity. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend .

Servant's Heart continues to be in need of baby diapers and wipes and even baby food . They have a turkey drive coming up for the holidays and will need \$10 gift cards from Publix for those living in facilities where they are unable to cook but can receive holiday food.

We will also continue our Bible study *God's Promise - I am with you* . We are on lesson three and additional study books are available .

In December we look forward to our annual Christmas luncheon to be held in Conway Hall on 12/10. Please join us for all the upcoming events.

If you have any questions please call Barbara Hart.



October 28th was Small Blessings Day at Grace Covenant. In celebration of 31 years of service to children, families and the community, the SB children sang at the 10:45 service and after the service refreshments were served, followed by a tour of the facility.

The Small Blessings children paraded in their costumes in the GCPC courtyard on October 26th and many families attended Trunk or Treat that evening for a time of food, fun, treats and fellowship.

Thanksgiving activities are fast approaching with studies of the fall and winter seasons. Children and teachers give thanks daily for God's many blessings. Thanksgiving feasts will be happening in the older children's classroom before school is out for the holiday. All the children are bringing items for Operation Christmas Child, a project Small Blessings participates in every year.

May God bless every Small Blessings family during this Thanksgiving season.

Send Grace Notes items to Jane Heppner at jane.gracenotes@gmail.com

NOTE: Deadline for the next issue is November 10th.

Please include Grace Notes in the title of the email.

Will you be doing Christmas shopping this month? Remember to use.....



Get to Know a Deacon

Hi, I'm **Kathy Roberts** and I am honored to be a Deacon. I was born and raised in Orlando and have lived in the Conway area for most of my life. I am a graduate of UCF, a website designer and app developer. I joined Grace Covenant in the mid 90's along with my family and was baptized alongside my dad not long after joining the church. I previously served on the Technology Committee and have participated in several events at GCPC over the years. I am a proud mom to my furry and feathered kids. And I also volunteer with the Golden Retriever Rescue of Mid Florida. I look forward to meeting your needs as your Deacon.

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

A LOOK INTO OUR FUTURE

By Maynard Pittendreigh

With Pastor Maynard retiring, what happens to us? We had two representatives from the Presbytery visit our Administration and Personnel Committee and our Session meeting in October making themselves available to answer a broad spectrum of questions related to “what’s next for us.” One representative was Dan Williams, who is our Presbytery Executive for Central Florida. The other was Carmelo Mercado, a pastor serving on the Committee on Ministry of our Presbytery. Carmelo is the former pastor of El Redentor and will be our Committee on Ministry Liaison, walking with our congregation throughout our entire process of looking for a new pastor.

What is ahead for us are two goals. The first is a short range goal – find an Interim Pastor. The second is the longer range goal – find a new, more permanent pastor.

Short term, we have already begun the process of securing a new Interim Pastor. The Session voted on a team of elders who will be approaching a group of people to serve on the Interim Search Committee. They are looking for representatives from specific session committees, from the deacons and from the congregation at large. The membership of this Interim Search Committee will be approved by Session at the November meeting and should be ready to begin their search right away. Dan Williams will give that committee a few names and resumes, but it is also possible this committee may find a candidate by other means. Once they have a candidate, the Session will vote on the Interim Pastor and sign a contract with him or her. It is possible that the new Interim Pastor can begin shortly after Pastor Maynard’s retirement, but the process is difficult to predict. It will take as much time as is needed. If there is a gap between Maynard and the new Interim Pastor, we are blessed with a commissioned pastor who can officiate sacraments. Session cannot meet without the pastor, as it is necessary to have the “presence of the presbytery” in all session meetings. However, that will not be a problem either as Candy can moderate Session meetings as a commissioned pastor. For preaching, we have several options in and outside of the congregations. In short, we are in good shape.

Long term, the search for the more permanent pastor is very different. At some point after the arrival of the Interim Pastor, the congregation (not the session in this case) will elect its Pastor Nominating Committee. They

will be trained by the presbytery for the search. It is possible the session and congregation will under take a mission or vision study. Our presbytery representatives told us that this process can take nine months, but rarely less, or eighteen months, and occasionally longer. When the candidate is identified, Presbytery will examine and approve the individual. There will be a congregational meeting to approve the individual and his or her terms of call. Again, that is different from the Interim Process. The Interim Pastor is hired by the Session. The more permanent pastor is called by the congregation.

This is a brief description of a complicated process. The main thing is that we are in good hands. Not only do we have excellent elders on Session, we also have a great Presbytery to assist us. Ultimately, all of this is in God’s hands, and God has already called the individuals to serve as Interim and then Pastor.

Feed My Sheep

(James 2:14) “Dear brothers, what’s the use of saying that you have faith and are Christians if you aren’t proving it by helping others? Will *that* kind of faith save anyone?it isn’t enough just to have faith. You must also do good to prove that you have it. Faith that doesn’t show itself by good works is no faith at all----it is dead and useless.”



(James 2:17) Living Bible

Take the

RANDOM ACTS OF INVITATION

Challenge!

The Outreach Committee is challenging every member at Grace Covenant to reach out this month (and then to make it a monthly habit) and invite one person to join you for something you enjoy at Church. Invite a pew mate to your Sunday school class; to a Youth Group activity; a Lunch Bunch meal; to your Circle or Committee meeting; or just to grab a quick bite to eat after service. Alternatively, reach out to a friend, colleague or family member to join you at Church. You’ll be amazed at the impact we can make if we all commit to this challenge.

Thank you to everyone who sent us cards, prayers, and donated to our favorite charity during the short illness and death of our brother, Bowers Pindling. Your love and prayers were certainly appreciated.



Blessings,
Reuben and Minnette Mullings

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Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Donations for school shirts for Eccleston Elementary School totaled \$1,029.00!!

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Thank you to the Worship Committee for the wonderful lunch, honoring members of the choir, bell choir and AV technicians!

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Thank you to **Marian Bauer** for going the extra mile to make World Communion Sunday so meaningful!

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Thank you all for helping to make our UP mission day, and The Great Pumpkin Chase such huge successes. Our students love to see, and be involved in a church that includes and supports them.



Sadie Belle Adams

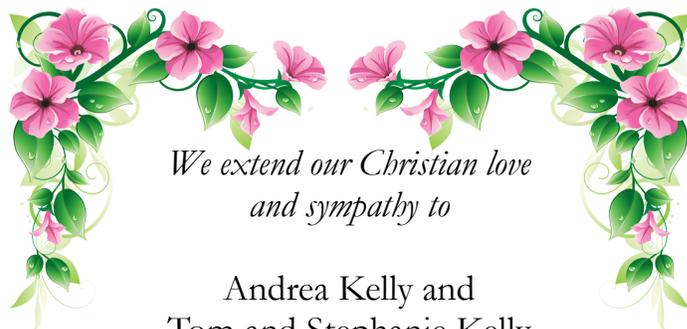
was baptized October 7, 2018.

She was born on September 5, 2013. She is the daughter of Jana & Johnathan Adams, sister of Aurora, and the granddaughter of Kathy Wiergacz.

Sutton Anne Munson

was baptized on October 14, 2018.

She was born on February 2, 2018. She is the daughter of Alex & Jamie Munson, granddaughter of Gary and Debbie Munson and the great-granddaughter of Jeanne Munson.



We extend our Christian love and sympathy to

Andrea Kelly and Tom and Stephanie Kelly and family on the passing of beloved husband, father and grandfather, Ernie Kelly in July 2018.



New Members

Clara Esther Findell (Susie)

Susie, as she likes to be called was born in Florida. She is an Army brat and currently a volunteer in several organizations in town. She met her husband, John, at FTU, which is now UCF. Before retiring she was in public relations at Sun Trust Bank. She comes to us through transfer of membership from the Pine Castle United Methodist Church.

Teresa C. Long (Terry)

Terry, is a retired teacher from Valencia College. Born in Cuba, she came to the USA in 1962. She comes to us through transfer of membership from the Conway United Methodist Church. Her husband's name is Robert Long.

Joyce Gallardy

Joyce comes to us through transfer of membership from the Downtown Baptist Church. She was born in Savannah, GA, and has lived in Orlando for 7 years. She is a retired teacher of foreign languages. She has three children: George, Helen Segura, and Antonio.

ROOTED Student Ministry Schedule

<p>November 4 and 11 Sundays After each service Annual Turkey Drive!</p> <p>The monies donated will be turned into gift cards and given to Dover Shores Elementary School PTA.</p>	<p>November 11 and 25 Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 pm Rooted Youth Group</p> <p>We'll have awesome turkey lurkey dap dinners, games, music, prayers, announcements and a lesson. Bring your friendz!!!</p>	<p>December 8 Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Mom's Christmas Shopping Day Fundraiser</p> <p>Sundays in December Calendar Sales</p> <p>Sunday School meets every Sunday, 9:30 - 10:30am, in the Youth Room with FREE, yep, FREE donuts, juice and Jesus!!!</p>
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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.



Youth Group calendars will be on sale after Church services in December. There is no need to pre-order. Cost is \$10.00.

3rd Graders Receive Bibles

On Sunday, October 21, the 3rd grade students in our Church family received a Bible as a gift from the Church. The students received their Bibles and were treated to a time of refreshments. The 3rd grade students in our church family are:

- Aurora Adams*
- Caroline DeMarco*
- Cole Hinckley*



Annual Turkey Drive



The Youth Group will be taking cash donations at the end of Church services on November 4 and 11. Monies donated will be turned into gift cards, then given to the Dover Shores Elementary School PTA so they can issue gift cards or buy turkeys for needy families in their district.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

came to central Florida after the Pulse shootings and again last year after Hurricane Irma.

This year, they are helping those who have lost everything in Hurricanes Florence and Michael.

You can help by making donations to PDA through GCPC. Cash or check donations should be marked "PDA".

In November, one of Grace Covenant's Thanksgiving traditions is the special offering for Thornwell. **Since 1875, Thornwell has been helping children and families in crisis** by offering a foster care program and other family & educational support programs. They provide safe and loving homes for children in need, offer hope for a brighter future through education and community-based programs, and encourage wholeness and healing with counseling & support.

2017 Impact At-A Glance

- **1,681 children and families served** in our Building Families Community Outreach locations across Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.
- **106 children had a safe home** in our Family-style Residential Care program.
- **73 children and family members served** through our Foster Care Families Recruitment & Training program.
- **102 children are closer to healing** because they received Professional Counseling & Therapy.
- **70 at-risk family members found support** in our Strengthening Families Skills-building Program.
- **35 teens and young adults learned life skills** through our Independent Living Classes.
- **150 children improved in school** through our After-school & Summer Learning Center programs.
- **235 at-risk little ones were loved and nurtured while they learned** in our Kindergarten & Early Head Start programs.

Thank you for your generous donations!



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Fran Morrison

Christopher Ford

Cookie Sunday is November 25

On the fourth Sunday of each month we accept donations from the congregation. These cookies are served at Hospitality Time after the second worship service each week.

Thank you for all your contributions!



FAMILY FUN NITE

ANNUAL THANKFUL SOUP NITE

Tuesday, November 20
Conway Hall 6:29 pm



In November we do something a little different. This is our **Annual Thankful Soup Nite**. For this month only, instead of a covered dish, **bring a vegetable (canned, frozen or fresh)** to add to our soup stock. By each one adding a little, working together, we will share a delicious, bountiful soup together. Drinks, bread, crackers and dessert will be provided. Join us for this time of fellowship and thanksgiving.

There will **NOT** be a Fourth Thursday at the Garden in November due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

HOLIDAY

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Alternative Christmas

9:30 am - 1:00 pm
Conway Hall

This annual event provides an opportunity for you to choose gifts that will not remain hidden in the bottom drawer or on the top shelf of a closet, but instead will be a gift that will keep on giving. The celebration will provide information and opportunity to select ways to complete your gift list by giving a gift in the name of one you love.

You will be given a gift card to send to the person you have gifted in this way.

Plan to spend some time in Conway Hall on that day and look at the displays to learn more about some very special ministries that the Grace Covenant family supports. You can choose your gifts that day, or take home an informational booklet to study, decide on the “gifts” you’d like to purchase, and return to the church any time before Christmas.

Boxes and instructions for Operation Christmas Child and bags to fill for the Share the Care residents will also be available on that day. **Christmas Child Boxes are due back Nov. 11 and Share the Care Bags are due back Dec. 2.**

Mom’s Shopping Day

On **December 8th, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**, the Youth Group will hold their Mom’s Christmas Shopping Day fundraiser in the Youth Room and Gym. They will watch the kids while you shop! This event is by donations, with an extra cost of \$5.00 per child if you would like lunch to be included.



You are invited to Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 22 Noon
Conway Hall



You are invited to celebrate this holiday with friends and family. Turkey, ham, rolls and drinks are provided. Please bring a traditional covered dish to share (potatoes, salad, vegetable or dessert).

Come with your family, or a friend, or just bring yourself, but plan to join in fellowship for this holiday meal.

Let us know if you are coming...and how many to expect...so we can plan. Fill out the bulletin insert, sign the sheet on the kiosk, or call the Church office, 407-898-6571, or email Candy at candy@grace.to.



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Friday, November 30

Crafts at 5 pm - Dinner at 6 pm Conway Hall

Decorating Service in the Sanctuary at 7 pm

Come take a break from turkey leftovers and have chili and hot dogs as you start your Advent season in a special way. Make some crafts to take home and some to use in decorating the sanctuary. Enjoy friendship, fellowship, and fun!

Each family is requested to bring a **pair of socks** as a gift to be given to someone in need.

NOVEMBER 2018



**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

Return Service Requested

To:



NOVEMBER 11

VETERANS DAY

One Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.

We will be remembering the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI and honoring all veterans for their service, especially this year on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. What a powerful moment it will be to have us all together in the sanctuary on **11 - 11** for a time of silence during the **11th hour**...as we think about the end of the “War to End All Wars” and all those who have been willing to be in service to our country.

CHURCH PICNIC

Also, make plans to attend the Church Picnic which will be held in Conway Hall on **Sunday, November 11 at noon.**

The picnic will be prepared for you. There will be donation baskets on the tables to cover expenses. **Everyone is asked to bring a dessert to share.** This is always a special event for our Church family, especially this year as we commemorate Veterans Day.

