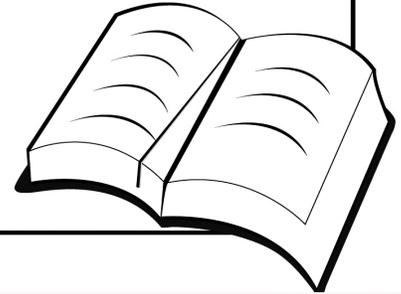


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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



December 2018 — Volume 61, Issue 11

Joy to the World

Celebrate Christmas!

Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24
5:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Both services will share in
Carols and Candle Lighting.
Communion will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m.

Although most children remain with their
families in worship for the special
Christmas Eve services,
we do make a nursery available.

If you would be willing to help out in the
nursery during one of the services, please call
the church office or email to candy@grace.to.

Christmas Covered Dish with Your Church Family

Sunday, December 9

Following the 10:45 service, you are invited to
gather in Conway Hall to join in fellowship with
members of the Grace Covenant family for a
Covered Dish lunch. Each family is requested
to bring a dish that is a traditional Christmas
treat at your home. Rolls and drinks will be
provided. Mark your calendar and come share
the joy of the season!

Christmas Alternatives

A reminder that gifts “that keep on giving” may
be purchased until Christmas. There are many
ministry areas to choose from and you will be
given cards to send to those you have honored.
A listing of choices and information about each
ministry are available on the Kiosk or on the
Visitor Table in the Narthex.

Bags for the clients at Share the Care are on the
Kiosk with instructions. Bags are due back
December 5.

Family Fun Nite

Tuesday, December 18 6:29 pm
Conway Hall

All are invited to our monthly Fun Nite to
slow down a little from the holiday rush
and spend some time together with great
friends and share in a meal together.

We share a covered dish meal
(drinks, bread and dessert provided)
followed by a time of simple games
around the tables.



The Christmas Spirit is in the air at Small Blessings. Many fun activities are used to teach the children the true meaning of Christmas, the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth. God gives us so many blessings and the Small Blessings families are giving to others through Operation Christmas Child. The children brought in various items such as school supplies, small toys, hygiene items, money for shipping items and some miscellaneous things to pack in boxes that are then given to Samaritan's Purse. The boxes are distributed to those in need.

On **Thursday, December 6 at 7:00 pm**, you are invited to see the precious VPK classes from Small Blessings perform their annual Christmas Pageant. It promises, as always, to be a very special time of celebration of the season.

In addition, on **Wednesday, December 12 at 9:00 am** in the gym, the members of Grace Covenant present a Christmas activity time for the Small Blessings children. We need people who will come and monitor one of the games or the craft as the children rotate through. **If you would be willing to come help with the Reindeer Games and share your Christmas spirit with these little blessings, please email (candy@grace.to) or call the church office (407-898-6571).**



We need helpers to come share in this celebration!

The Christmas Parties for Small Blessings classes will be Friday, December 21.

Grace Covenant wishes all Small Blessings families and staff a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year!

*As you do your shopping this month,
remember to use.....*



Ruth Circle

At the November meeting of Ruth Circle our guest speaker was Chloe Battle from Servant's Heart. We learned of their continued support to feed

those in need and how our Circle can be of help. On Monday, December 10, we look forward to our Christmas Luncheon in Conway Hall. Each attendee will bring a dish to share. We are also asking for each person to bring an item for Servant's Heart - such as a package of diapers, wipes or baby food. Books are also welcome.

We will continue our Bible Study before enjoying our luncheon.

Please call Barbara Hart with any questions.

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See the church calendar online:

<http://www.grace.to/announcements/weekly-calendar/>

Thank You!

Dear Church Family,
Thank you all for the prayers, visits, cards and calls you extended to me over the last weeks following my injury. They were much appreciated and so just like you.....caring, loving and thoughtful church members. Thank you so much!

Love,
Carol Manno

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A great big **THANK YOU** for all the workers who prepared and served the Annual Picnic. Special thanks to the Blair family for once again grilling the meat. It was a great day to be together!

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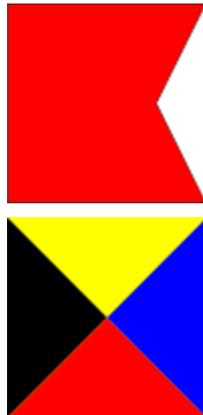
THANK YOU all for another successful Turkey Drive!! We matched last year's monies donated, and that was given to the Dover Shores Elementary School PTA so they can hand out the gift cards, or buy turkeys for needy families in their district.

The Youth Group

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Awesome!

The outpouring of support for our Veterans Day service and associated festivities at our picnic was just amazing. Thank you so much. I won't ever forget that service and that day. Several folks came up to me during the picnic and asked about their own situation vis-a-vis the Vietnam Commemorative Program. I think I got the requests properly noted, but if I don't get back to you in a reasonable period of time, please do call or email me for further follow-up. One loose end, so to speak, involves a name given to me during the picnic, but I neglected to note who gave it to me and the context. The name was Walter Leroy Albright, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT, USMC. Would the member who gave me that name please contact me again with the relationship and situation. Again, many thanks, and an enthusiastic BRAVO ZULU!



## Hunger Doesn't Take a Holiday

The organizations that help needy people in central Florida always have an increased need for food during the holiday season. We usually collect non-perishable food on the first Sunday of the month, which we call Christian Service Center Sunday. **But from now until December 16, you can bring these items ANY Sunday.**

We will take them either to CSC or to other food pantries at Eccleston and Dover Shores schools or Servant's Heart Ministry. Here is a list of items that are especially needed:

- Canned meat and tuna
- Pancake mix and syrup
- Canned pork and beans
- Canned soup
- Bottled water and beverages
- Macaroni and cheese
- Nonfat dry milk in envelopes
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Dry rice and pasta
- Canned pasta



**Thank you for your generosity!**



## Check it Out!!

The **Grace Covenant Library** has a large collection of books for the Christmas season for all ages. Come in, browse and find some materials to read that will help to **prepare your heart** for the celebration of Christmas. The library is located in room 4, downstairs, Smith Hall.

Our New Children of God!

***Emerson Grace Field***  
Daughter of  
Justin and Krysta Field  
Granddaughter of Kathie Wiergacz  
Born November 3, 2018



***Railyn Marie Coronado***  
Daughter of Michael and Jessica Coronado  
Great-granddaughter of Rick and Kathie Richert  
Born November 14, 2018



## Get to Know a Deacon

Hello, I'm **Mary Chesnut** and I am honored to be serving on the Board of Deacons. I grew up in Kentucky and graduated from Morehead State College with a degree in Elementary Education. I began my teaching career in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, then taught in Columbus, Ohio; Frankfurt, Germany (the Army dependents); and retired from Orange County Public Schools in 2003. We moved to Orlando in 1964 and joined Grace Covenant in 1965. I have one daughter, two grandchildren and one great granddaughter. I enjoy traveling, singing in the choir, puttering in the yard and spoiling my great granddaughter. I look forward to serving on the Board of Deacons.



## Change of Address

Nassa and Shelly Mustapha

The Youth Group will be selling calendars after services during the month of December. There is no need to pre-order them.

The cost is \$10.00 each.



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

**NOTE: Deadline for the next issue is DECEMBER 10th.**

Please include Grace Notes in the title of the email.



## In Sympathy

*We extend our Christian love and sympathy to ~*

*The family of Mary Lou Brown who passed away on September 8, 2018 in Tampa, Florida*

*The family of Betty Anspach who passed away on October 21, 2018.*

*Lorna Bacchus and Reuben and Lauren Shivnarain and family. Lorna's and Lauren's father, Sukhnarine Singh, passed away on November 1, 2018 and their mother, Dularie Singh, passed away on November 26, 2018.*

*Nick Pazar and Karla and Aaron Stogsdill and family on the passing of Nick's wife and Karla's mother, Debbie, on November 13, 2018.*

## WELCOME New Members

### *Londra Mead*

I was born in Springfield, IL. I received my Associate Degree from the University of Florida and business degree from the University of Central Florida. I am a retired association executive and business owner. My previous churches were First Presbyterian Church and Orlando Presbyterian Church. I served on the Mission Team and the Singles Council and was chairman of Singles Week at First Presbyterian. At Orlando Presbyterian I served as an ordained Deacon for five years and was on the Mission Committee. I also set up the program on Centering Prayer for Orlando Presbyterian and Grace Covenant.

### *Carol Juey*

I was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and I have lived in Orlando my entire adult life. I was active for many years at First Presbyterian, serving as elder, singles ministry leader, and founding board member of The Christ School. I also coordinated The Hungarian Teaching Mission, in which we ran summer English camps in two Christian schools in Hungary. Envisioning new opportunities for service at Orlando Presbyterian, I chaired the Mission/Outreach committee and coordinated City Serve, our volunteer outreach to the community.

I am the proud mother of Jason and Courtney, both fine young people with hearts for giving.

I am excited to embark upon my new membership in such a warm and active church community as Grace.





**Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**  
**4' x 6' Banner Campaign**  
 One-Year Conway Hall Banner Advertisement

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church members can now advertise their business in Conway Hall, for one year, in the form of a 4' x 6' vinyl banner.

Along with this application, please attach a 8.5" x 11" color copy of your intended advertisement. Include payment in the amount of \$300.00 payable to Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church; Check # \_\_\_\_\_. Submit application, payment, and intended advertisement to the Church Office for GCPC approval.

Upon payment this one-year agreement shall become effective under the following terms.

1. Upon advertisement approval, GCPC will have a 4' x 6' vinyl banner produced for your company. An electronic copy of the intended advertisement may be required. Company logos shall be emailed to [tracy@suncoastassemblers.com](mailto:tracy@suncoastassemblers.com) in a PDF or JPEG format.
2. Banners will be installed on the GYM's upper perimeter wall in Conway Hall, in a sequence to balance space, surrounding the basketball court.
3. Banner production & installation may require two to three weeks.
4. GCPC & the applicant will have the option to renew the agreement for an additional year. An invoice will be sent to the applicant annually in the amount of \$300.00.
5. If the applicant does not wish to renew their advertisement, or payment has not been received within 30 days, applicant may pick up their banner in the Church Office.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

GCPC STAFF APPROVAL: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Banner Installed on: \_\_\_\_\_

*"To GOD Be All the Glory"*



## Christmas is the season of giving.

Have you thought about how you might give to your church?

Tithing – that is a word we sometimes hear in the church, but rarely hear elsewhere. It comes from the Scriptures as a call for us to give proportionally to what God has given to us. Literally, it means “one tenth.” My wife and I have practiced tithing for many years and we feel it has enhanced our lives, blessing us with a better understanding that all we have belongs to God in the first place.

If one is not tithing it is a difficult goal to achieve. It takes years of work and discipline, but like losing weight, small steps over a long period of time are worthwhile.

Your church has had, for many years, a goal to give a tithe of our offerings to outreach and missions. We have reached our tithe goal in actual spending only three times in the past ten years – 2009, 2013 and 2015. Tithing remains our goal and our challenge.

Whether you are tithing, or working toward a tithe, your offerings are important in the work of your church. Your offerings support missions and outreach; the upkeep on our facilities which are used for the church AND for the community; you provide for pastoral care, worship services, youth ministry, and so much more.

As we enter the season of Advent and Christmas, and approach a new year, now is an excellent time to think about how well you are doing with meeting the goal of tithing. What small steps can you make toward this goal?

Another way you might give to the church is to remember the church in your will. Anne Stegman did this and the church was the prime recipient of her estate. These funds enabled us to pay the mortgage on Conway Hall, and to provide a significant Endowment Fund. Since 2015, this Endowment has provided income which is used to support many of our mission partners, such as United Against Poverty; bus passes for the needy to go to UAP; Russell Home; Daily Bread; Dave’s House; Duvall Home; our work in Haiti, and so much more.

Sometimes individuals ask, “can the Endowment be used for providing new staff members, an Associate Pastor, steeple replacement, roof repair or AC repair” Good question, but the answer is “no.” When the Endowment Fund was set in place in November, 2014, it was clearly for the support of outreach and, in rare and limited instances, for “non-recurring capital expenditures.”

The best way to have endowment funds go toward other expenses is for our members to create new endowment funds by remembering the church in their wills. Ann Stegman did this and the bulk of her estate came to Grace Covenant, creating this great resource for funding outreach and missions. You, through remembering the church in your will, can help create other Endowment Funds for these other purposes.



Our Session met on Thursday, November 15th, and appointed seven church members to serve on the Interim Pastor Search Committee: Lindy DeMarco, Jane Heppner, Anne Hughes, Jim Malcolm, Kim McKenzie, John Neusaenger, and Frank Quiett. Keep them in prayer as they search for our Interim Pastor to lead us after Dr. Pittendreigh retires.

**DECEMBER 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  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit No. 3597  
Orlando, FL

Return Service Requested

To:



**BUILDING MEMORIES...**

**...build a Gingerbread House with  
friends and family!**

**Sunday, December 9, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm Conway Hall**

This is a chance for your family (or with your church family) to spend time together building a gingerbread house to take home...a chance to make memories in a season that gets so hectic.

All ages are encouraged to participate...singles will be grouped together. Want to join in the fun but don't want to take it home? We'll deliver your house to a place where it will be loved.

We must have you sign up by December 5, so we will have enough supplies for everyone. Please sign up at the Kiosk or call the Church office. (407-898-6571)

All you need to bring is a bag of candy that can be "put in the pot" to share in decorating the houses. All other supplies are provided.