

# G

# R



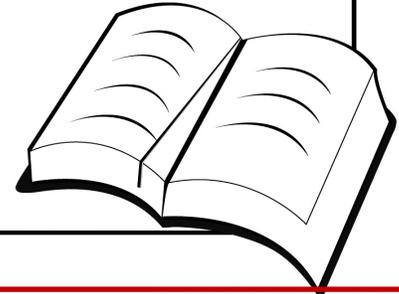
# C

# E

  
**notes**

GRACE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



February 2019 — Volume 62, Issue 2

I give you a new commandment, that you **love one another**. Just as I have **loved** you, you also should **love one another**. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have **love for one another**.”

John 13:34-35 NRSV

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SHOWING GRACE TO OTHERS

From the blog: *Loving Life at Home*

### G = Grant forgiveness freely

Harboring grudges and resentments doesn't hurt the target of our bile and bitterness nearly as much as it hurts our own health and wellbeing. We must learn to let things go and move on, for our own sake as well as for the people around us. God has forgiven us an insurmountable debt. So must we forgive others. (Matthew 19:21-35)

### R = Remain patient at all times

We shouldn't allow the words or actions of others to inflame us. Instead, we must stay steady. Think clearly. Remain calm. The Bible teaches that patience is a mark of wisdom (Proverbs 19:11). We are told to "count it all joy" when we encounter trials, knowing that such difficulties mature us and build our patience and endurance. (James 1:2-3)

### A = Answer evil with good

We must resist the urge to repay tit for tat. "Getting even" is not a godly mindset, it just escalates and perpetuates the conflict. Instead, we should "bless those that curse you and pray for those who spitefully use you." (Luke 6:28-29) We should not return evil for evil (Romans 12:17), but should treat others the way we'd like for them to treat us. (Luke 6:30) The book of Proverbs warns of the harm caused by gossip.

### C = Consider others' viewpoints

There may be contributing factors to their behavior of which you are unaware. Put yourself in their shoes, not to justify another's wrong actions, but to help you better

understand underlying causes so that they can be effectively addressed. Examine your own heart, attitudes, and actions in the matter. Have these contributed to the problem you are facing? If so, ask their forgiveness and do what you can to make amends. (Matthew 5:23-24)

### E = Exemplify Christ's love

"Let everything be done in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14) Love is our standard. It is patient, kind, and longsuffering. (1 Corinthians 13) We should love, because God first loved us. (1 John 4:19).

Love and grace are inseparable.

Showing grace to others does not mean we sweep problems under the carpet and pretend they don't exist. Wrongful behavior needs to be addressed, and it may sometimes fall on us to do it. Yet in the midst of addressing such difficulties, we must pray for wisdom, then speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) with sincere humility.

This is the path grace marks out for us — even when dealing with the most difficult cases — and it is our best hope for resolving conflicts in a way that honors God, by communicating His love and grace to those around us.

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See the church calendar online:

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

Roses are red,  
violets are blue  
...it's February and I'm here to  
say thank you!!!



I think we all realize that actions speak louder than words. And over the last couple of months, my GCPC family, you've been shouting your care and affection for me and my family. For those of you who sent get well cards - I am getting better - thank you. For the Christmas card crew- thanks for being my decorations this holiday. I'll try to reciprocate this year! And lastly for the sympathy card senders - I'm comforted by your words. Thanks to all of you for filling my 'snail mail' - box with something other than ads and bills!

For those who came to celebrate my sister Sue's life here and her graduation to 'the next level' on January 12 - thank you! For the team that made that day run like clock work, a major thank you!!! For the gourmet kitchen team - amazing job! To the sanctuary scene setters - Deacons Donna and Mary- everyone was greeted and seated with great care. Elder Herschel (no reflection on your age, my friend! Honoring your title)- well done keeping things moving and no one getting lost. The organ music was terrific Barbara! Thanks Doug for making it so everyone could hear. Wayne - thanks for everything you did behind the scenes. And for anyone who I missed - God didn't!! Thank you.

And a special thank you to Candy for officiating and being a friend through this season, once again. As always you go far above and beyond what you're asked to do.

You're amazing! Thanks again!

Happy 2019 ya'll!  
Nancy Nordman

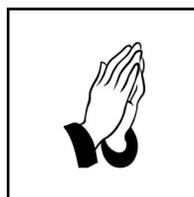
Reuben and Lauren Shivnarain would like to thank the members of GCPC for their outpouring of love, sympathy, cards and donations to our family during the loss of our father and mother during the month of November.

I would specially like to thank Pastor Candy for her help, compassion and pastoral care to our family and for printing the programs and conducting both services. Also special thanks to Beth Meadows for singing at our mother's funeral.

Kindly,  
Reuben & Lauren Shivnarain  
and the Singh family

## Schedule for Preaching

- Feb 3 Maynard Pittendreigh
- Feb 10 Maynard Pittendreigh's final sermon at GCPC
- Feb 17 Dan Williams, Executive Presbyter of Central Florida Presbytery
- Feb 24 Candy Vander Weide
- March 3 Jim Pate
- March 10 Baldwin Hamilton, former Commissioned Lay Pastor of Orlando Presbyterian
- March 17 Jim Pate
- March 24 Candy Vander Weide



*Please be in prayer for~*

Several of our high school boys who will be making a journey to Heart of Soncoast Chrysalis in Brandon, FL. This retreat, Feb. 23 - 25, is designed to provide tools to those who have already professed a faith in Jesus Christ, and are living a life for Him.

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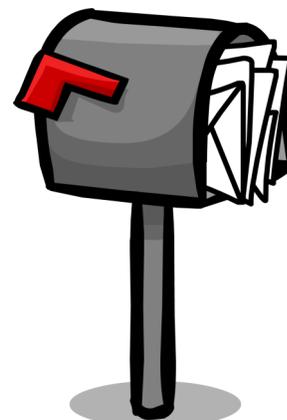
Members of the Interim Pastor Search Committee as they begin interviewing candidates.

## NEW ADDRESSES

**Anne Goodman**

**Pat Prestin**

**Bill and Sandy Zeevalk**



## PARENTS of GCPC

Need some help with your Valentine's Day plans?



We will once again have our annual **Parents Night Out Fundraiser**, Saturday, **February 9** from 5pm-9pm.

We will watch your children for a donation while you go out for a romantic evening.

Use us as an outreach for your friends. We'll provide dinner for all.

All monies raised go to help offset costs for our summer conferences at Montreat, which costs each student over \$750 to attend.

## Support the Youth Group

There are plenty of new experiences for the youth group this month as they seek Christ in unique and special ways!

One way is the **30-Hour Famine and Lock-In**, benefitting World Vision, a Christian organization whose purpose is to end world hunger, especially in countries with a high population of children.

The participants will get pledges to fast for 30 hours, starting at 7:00 am on Friday, February 1. If you see one of our youth, please ask how you can pledge!

They'll have a lock-in that night to commiserate their hunger, and learn more about how people deal with a lack of food in their communities.



The fast will end at 1:00 pm on Saturday when they'll eat together at Golden Corral.



### Love is in the air at Small Blessings!

God's love for each of us is always emphasized as teachers talk with children and model how to show our love to others. Of course, this is ongoing throughout the year.

Valentine's Parties are on February 14. This is an exciting and fun time for the children with hearts to share and goodies to eat.

Small Blessings is closed on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 18.

Registration for fall for current Small Blessings families is March 6 - 8, and will be open to Grace Covenant families and the community after that.

Grace Covenant members send their heartfelt love to all the children, families and staff at Small Blessings!



*As you shop for your special someone this month, don't forget to ~~*





The next **Florida Presbyterian Pilgrimage (# 14)** will be on

**March 28-31, 2019**

at

**The Retreat in Silver Springs, Ocala, FL.**

It is the best treat you can give yourself ~~

- A weekend with the Lord.
- A spiritual retreat for Christians who want to deepen their relationship with the Lord.

If you are interested and want to know more or sign up., call **Minnette Mullings**.



### DID YOU KNOW???

Committee membership is open to all members of the Grace Covenant family. The committees work behind the scenes to plan and execute the many varied programs and opportunities to serve that we hear about each week.

If you have an interest in a particular area of ministry and would like to help, call the church office and let your interest be known. Someone will call you about the meeting time and place and any other information you may need.

Some of the areas that can always use extra hearts and hands are:

Buildings and Grounds - meets 1st Thursday  
 Christian Education - meets 2nd Tuesday  
 Congregational Fellowship - meets 2nd Tuesday  
 Outreach - meets 1st Tuesday  
 Technology - meets.....well it's a mystery  
 Worship - meets 2nd Sunday  
 Youth - meets 2nd Thursday



Our annual Vacation Bible School is scheduled for **June 10 – 13, from 9:00 am – noon**. We are beginning to make plans for this amazing week of sharing the stories of our faith with the children.

It takes many hands and loving hearts to make this program happen. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry this year.

- Is God calling you to work with others in music, art, recreation, storytelling or refreshments?
- Are you willing to help with the closing picnic on June 13 at noon?
- Could you be there to help with registration and to welcome the children as they arrive?
- Is decorating your gift?

And/or would you be willing to help in some way with the **Small Blessings Bible School to be held on June 17, 18 and 19**. This program meets from 9 – 11:30 am on these three days.

Please call (407-898-6571) or email Candy ([candy@grace.to](mailto:candy@grace.to)) with any questions or ideas or to express your willingness to share God's love in this fun and special way.



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

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

Please include Grace Notes in the title of your email.

# ROOTED Student Ministry Schedule

**February 1**  
 Friday  
 30-Hour Famine and Lock-In

**February 9**  
 Saturday  
 5:00 - 9:00 pm  
 Parents Night Out Fundraiser

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

**February 10 and 24**  
 Sundays  
 5:15 - 7:00 pm  
 Rooted Youth Group

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

**February 23-25**  
 Saturday - Monday  
 Heart of Soncoast Chrysalis

**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.**

## Fellowship Opportunities for All

### FAMILY FUN NITE

Tuesday, February 19  
 6:29 pm  
 Conway Hall



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

Come join your Church family for this casual, fun-filled time.

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

Thursday, February 28  
 6:30 pm

No reservations needed.  
 No program or agenda.

Just great food and fellowship at the **Olive Garden Restaurant on East Colonial.**  
 Hope to see you there!!





## *In Sympathy*

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

The family of **Betty Mason** who died Sunday, December 30, 2018.

**John Sewell** and family on the death of John's wife, **Millie**, who died Sunday, January 13, 2019.

The family of **Edwina Pearce** who died Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

### **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 re-sources, 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.



## *New Baby!*

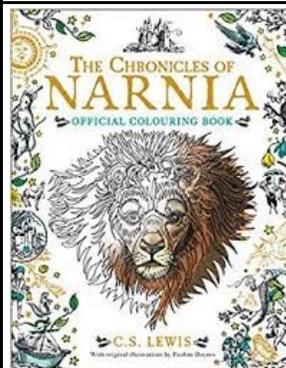
The pink rosebud is in honor of **Koralina Reef Suters**, daughter of Cherie and Matthew; sister of Kaiden, Kaiya, Keegan, Kierra, Kaleigha and Nolan; and the granddaughter of Wayne and Pat Lyons.



## *Lucas Edward Gray*

was baptized on December 23, 2018.

Lucas was born on August 14, 2018 and is the son of Eric and Josi Gray.



## *Thank you!*

Members of the Earl Tyson Sunday School Class would like to thank Jane Heppner for *The Chronicles of Narnia* coloring books!

### **Top 10 Films of 2018 for Believers**

1. First Reformed
2. Come Sunday
3. Won't You Be My Neighbor?
4. The Hate U Give
5. Roma
6. If Beale Street Could Talk
7. At Eternity's Gate
8. Boy Erased
9. Unbroken: Path to Redemption
10. On the Basis of Sex: Ruth Bader Ginsburg



From the PCUSA website:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/top-10-films-for-believers/>



In the Old Testament book of Numbers, chapter 8, we read, “The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: This applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall begin to do duty in the service of the tent of meeting; and from the age of fifty years they shall retire from the duty of the service and serve no more. They may assist their brothers in the tent of meeting in carrying out their duties, but they shall perform no service. Thus you shall do with the Levites in assigning their duties.”

From a biblical perspective, I am a decade and a half late in retirement. I started preaching weekly when I was a seminary student 41 years ago. I have been ordained for 38 years, which means I’ve been a session member for 38 years. Every time I have heard elders say that they have served 3 whole years and look forward to rotating off, I’ve smiled. I calculate that I have moderated well over 500 session meetings. I have kept records of every baptism I’ve done (380), every wedding (195) and every funeral (290). I can’t say I will miss the funerals, but they have been spiritually satisfying as part of my service to God’s people. I can definitely say I will miss baptisms.

“What will you do in retirement,” is a question I am frequently asked. Many of you know I am an astronomer and I will become more active in this field. I am stepping into the role of Executive Secretary of the world’s largest amateur astronomy organization, the Astronomical League. In that role I will be working part-time with educators, volunteers and schools in introducing astronomy to students around the world. In July, I will be directing an astronomy conference in the Bahamas. I have a lot to keep me busy, but I will still be an ordained pastor. I plan to continue to preach, filling in for vacationing pastors. If I could avoid the use of the word “retirement,” I would. I look at what I am doing as a “sabbatical.” I am a certified Interim Pastor, so I plan to eventually serve other churches in transitional ministry.

Another question I am frequently asked is, “Where will you be living,” and the answer to that is “we are staying here.” My wife will continue to teach at McCoy Elementary School for the foreseeable future. My son and his family live in Orange County. We have no desire to move anytime soon, and may well stay in Orlando for the rest of our lives. You will not see us at Grace Covenant very often. My wife and I will be attending another Presbyterian Church in the community. Our absence will give you the ability to focus on your future and not your past.

Another question I have been asked is, “Why are you retiring,” and I’ve given different answers. Usually I say it is a mixture of reasons, and that is certainly true. The deeper reason is that God called me to come here, and now God is calling me to the next step in my journey.

Once I retire I will no longer be your pastor, but I will always remain your friend. I’ve appreciated being able to preach God’s Word to you on Sundays. I have valued every phone call and text you have sent asking for my guidance or help. I have been honored to serve you and your family at your most joyous times for baptisms and weddings, and at your times of deepest sorrows such as funerals. I am grateful to God that he has called me to serve you, and I am confident that God has already called your new Interim and your new permanent pastor. When God reveals these men or women to you, I know that you will support them with love, prayer and encouragement, as you have me. Thank you for all you have done for me and my family, and for allowing me to serve you.

Dr. W. Maynard Pittendreigh  
Senior Pastor  
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

**FEBRUARY 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

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To:

## *Retirement Reception*

On February 10, 2013, the congregation of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church (GCPC) celebrated the installation of their newly called pastor, Rev. Dr. W. Maynard Pittendreigh. **Six years later, on February 10, 2019, Dr. Pittendreigh will preside over his last service at GCPC.**

**We want to celebrate and remember the ministry of Dr. Pittendreigh**, as he leaves the pulpit of GCPC, with a wonderful and memorable **retirement reception on February 10, 2019, at 3:00 PM in Conway Hall**. You are invited to become an active participant in this remembrance and celebration.

We look forward to your attendance at this memorable event in the life of the congregation of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and also, your participation on this special day as the congregation of GCPC says farewell to the Pittendreichs.

If you would like more information or have questions,  
please contact Jim Malcolm.