

GraceNotes



A Monthly Publication of the Congregational Activities of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newton, NC
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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021

WELCOME ALL PIRATES SEARCHING FOR
THE TREASURE OF THE GOSPEL!

SUNDAY, JULY 25 – WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

Kickoff – Sunday, July 25 – 5:00
Registration/Hotdogs/Introduction/Lesson/Games

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY

5:30 – Meal
6:00 – Lessons/Crafts/Games/Music

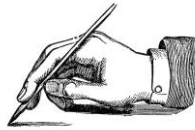


ATTENTION! CALLING ALL USHERS, GREETERS,
LECTORS (LAY READERS), COMMUNION
ASSISTANTS, AND ACOLYTES:

PLEASE ATTEND THE WORSHIP ASSISTANT
TRAINING WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR
SATURDAY, JULY 10TH AT 11:00 AM

THIS IS FOR ALL THOSE WHO CURRENTLY SERVE,
IN ADDITION TO THOSE WHO WISH TO RECEIVE
TRAINING!

From the Pastor's Pen.....



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Grace,

As we put the past of the pandemic behind us, there are several things that I think will assist in making the transition a real blessing.

1. Being grateful for the small things. Swimming lessons, movies, day-trips, picnics and museums. These opportunities were not available before because they were all closed. Taking our family to these places now fill me with deep gratitude and thanksgiving.
2. Being selective about where we go. When the pandemic began, I attended certain events out of obligation, but I really didn't want to be there. Now we are trying to be more selective about where we go and what we do. Being in worship each week has become even more vital as we gather with the Body of Christ to sing and worship the Lord of heaven and earth.
3. Scheduling plenty of down-time. Over the past year, we became accustomed to having plenty of uninterrupted down-time at home. It was a realization that we all thrive on slow, peaceful days, mixed in with the work obligations that are necessary. Again, I fell in love with reading and studying and these are the obligations that I will make time for in the future.
4. Seeing family members. Not being able to spend time with family and close friends was one of the worst parts of the pandemic. Now we are relishing visits we have with family members and friends.
5. Giving people (even more) GRACE! This past year has been stressful in so many ways. Our calling as Christians is to choose compassion and to foster unity, and not to hold on to disagreements or criticisms. So as life resumes its "normalcy", we need to make a priority to find positives instead of differences, and use grace instead of judgment. I believe this is the best way to depart from the inner wounds the pandemic left us. May He continue to heal us as we move forward in faith.

God love you!
Pastor Gil Gilbert

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JULY

- ❖ Lector – Stormy Shull
- ❖ Communion Assistants – Herb and Libby Travis
- ❖ Ushers – Joe and Lynette Momier
- ❖ Altar Preparation – Herb and Libby Travis
- ❖ Offering Tabulators – Todd Childers and Gary Leatherman

*Please be mindful of your commitment to serve. If you are unable to fulfill that commitment, be reminded that it is **your** responsibility to find someone to serve in your place.*

FLOWER CHART FOR JULY



7/04	Lorene Heavner
7/11	OPEN
7/18	Herb and Libby Travis
7/25	Todd Childers

If you wish to give the flowers for a given Sunday, please list your name on the chart in the narthex. *You are responsible for ordering the flowers from a florist of your choice; we do not have a standing order with any florist.* The liturgical color of the day is listed to assist you in selecting flowers appropriate for that Sunday. You should contact the Church Office so that the correct information is placed in the bulletin for that Sunday. Please notify the Church Office the Thursday prior to your selected Sunday. You can call the Church Office between 9 AM and Noon each weekday, leave a note on the desk, or send an email to let us know the occasion or memoriam for this wonderful gift of beatification of the worship.

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING TO OUR LORD'S WORK FOR MAY/JUNE, 2021

	5/30/21	6/06/21	6/13/21	6/20/21	6/27/21
Learning Hour	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Worship	45	46	46	43	52
General Fund Offerings	\$4,305	\$3,018	\$1,525	\$2,982	\$1,808

Needed Each Week = \$3,268.54

General Fund **Offerings, May 2021** = \$17,707.28

General Fund **Expenses, May 2021** = \$10,930.44

Difference = \$6,776.84 (offerings exceeded expenses)

THE MEN OF GRACE PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held on Saturday, July 10, at 9:00 AM at Four Peas in a Pod Restaurant. Great food, great fellowship, and fabulous prayer!

THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT GRACE extend our Christian sympathy, love and prayers to the families of Betty Lynch, Reid Lynch, and Jimmy Jarrett who all entered the Church Triumphant in the month of June. May God comfort all who mourn.

VBS AT GRACE, JULY 25-28

The VBS Team has been busy at work planning and scheduling all that will happen the week of VBS as well as the preparations to be done the days prior to VBS. The planning of meals, program events, teaching materials, and supplies is being finalized at the writing of this article. There will be classes and activities for every age. In addition, we will have an adult class dealing with the results of the pandemic and how things have changed in our lives and in our faith life. How can I help? Contact Stormy Shull to see what is needed and how you can assist in making this the best VBS ever.

Last year, we unfortunately cancelled VBS due to the pandemic. This year we have invited local congregations to be a part of VBS at Grace. Zion Lutheran, Sardis Lutheran and Plateau and Wesley Chapel Methodist congregations have partnered with Grace to make this a great VBS. There is still work to be done. Call or speak with Stormy Shull to see what is needed and where you can help.

WORSHIP WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

Attention all USHERS, GREETERS, LECTORS (Lay Readers), COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, and ACOLYTES. There will be a workshop held on Saturday, July 10 at 11 AM for all who are currently serving in all of the groups listed, in addition to those who desire to be trained to serve as any of the worship assistants listed above.

NOTE: There is a serious need for others to be involved in these areas of worship. Those disciples who are currently serving cannot keep serving week after week without others answering the call to help share the load. Please help.

IT'S SHOEBOX TIME AGAIN

Now more than ever, children need hope! As the world struggles with the damage done by the coronavirus pandemic, we are praying for even greater opportunities to reach boys and girls with the Gospel. We want to let them know that God loves them and has not forgotten them!

The best way to get involved is to pack a shoebox yourself. As you specially select each item, packing a shoebox becomes a blessing for you as well as the child who receives it. It's a good idea to include a note and a photo! One great suggestion we have received from you as you fill your shoeboxes is to shop for those small items for the shoebox at your neighborhood dollar store. They have a wide variety of toys, school supplies and toiletries for children.

Thank you again, people of Grace Lutheran Church in Newton NC, for partnering with us this shoebox season to bring Good News and great joy to children around the world!

Partnering with you in Christ,
--Franklin Graham

STEPHEN MINISTRY MEANS CHRISTIAN CAREGIVING

The Stephen Ministry Class for Instruction and Supervision is now underway. The class is made up of disciples from Grace who are already commissioned Stephen Ministers, as well as our new class of trainees. The new trainees are Ricky Bivens, Debi Pisko, and Stormy Shull. We may also have a member from St. Mark's, Claremont, join our class for instruction as they will be commissioned at St. Mark's to serve as a Stephen Minister in that congregation.

The Stephen Ministers who serve Grace are Herb Travis, Shelia Drum, Libby Travis and Michael Pisko. They were commissioned in 2018 as Stephen Ministers at Grace and we give thanks to God for their work and ministry in providing Christian caregiving on a one-to-one relationship.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

There are over 290 children currently experiencing foster care in Catawba County. There is a huge need for foster and adoptive families willing to become involved in the Foster Care Program. There is an immediate need for 95 children to be placed in a foster home.

How can we get involved? You are invited to attend a Foster Care Information Meeting on the second Tuesday of every month (6 PM) at the DSS County Offices located behind the Catawba Medical Center or via ZOOM. You can call 828-695-4553 for more information.

You can also sign up to be on the Donor List to help with the needs of the agency. The top ten needs are: 1. New bath towels and wash cloths, 2. New underwear of all sizes for boys and girls, 3. Financial contributions to the Foster Care Fund (to pay for summer camps, field trips, school supplies, etc.) 4. New plastic storage containers, 5. New/gently used suitcases, 6. Travel size toiletries, 7. Diapers and wipes.

THANK YOU....

Jeff Scronce for taking care of a snake outside of Fellowship Hall following the June Board Meeting and for his donation of a new vacuum cleaner for the church.

Herb Travis for serving as acolyte every Sunday for the past several months. Herb and Libby also open the church on Sunday mornings, as well as prepare the Lord's Table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion every Sunday.

Adam Gilbert for washing and cleaning the church bus and to Ricky Bivens for taking care of the registration renewal for the bus.

Stormy Shull for leading, organizing and implementing the VBS for this summer.



BOARD NOTES

Meeting was called to order by Alan Shull, Sunday, June 20, 2021 at 4:00 pm
Devotions were given by Herb Travis

NEW BUSINESS

Leadership Board Retreat to be held Saturday, July 31 at 9 AM at the Catholic Conference Center.

Cleaning Service has changed. Our new cleaning service is Chris Abernathy who comes to us from Miller's Lutheran where she has cleaned that church for the past 14 years.

Defibrillator is being purchased for the church for emergency situations.

Stools for Fellowship Hall being purchased, LED lighting is also being examined for Fellowship Hall.

EDUCATION

Three congregations will partner with Grace for VBS.

PROPERTY

Sexton's Closet will be cleaned out and restocked with supplies for our new cleaning person.

Ceiling tiles to be installed in downstairs hallway and in Pastor's Study.

Brick at end of walkway to be repaired. Signage to be updated. New directional signs to be inspected and one new sign installed at end of Blackburn Bridge Rd.

Playground cleanup is needed in preparation for VBS. July 17th at 9 AM

Front doors to be discussed about the time taken to repair and complete. Contact with Mark Childers and Chris Scronce will be done.

Rick Bivens to take Church Bus to be inspected and registration renewal.

OUTREACH

Lorene Heavner has taken food items to ECCCM.

FELLOWSHIP

No Homecoming this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The PPP Government Loans have been forgiven as agreed.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded.

Pastor Gil closed the meeting with prayer.

Next Meeting: July 18 at 4:00 in Pastor's Class.

Devotions: Gary Leatherman Tabulators for July: Gary Leatherman and Todd Childers

Grace Notes

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