



Words of Grace



Our purpose at Grace is to NURTURE a fellowship of believers empowered with the Holy Spirit, to REACH out to others with Grace, so we shall all know, WORSHIP, and love God.

September 2011

Grace United Methodist Church

Volume 12 No. 9

Dream Teams and Changing the World

Acts 16:9-11 ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. ¹¹ We set sail...

Recently, I was speaking to one of our college students about what inspires him and his friends to be part of a particular church. Let me paraphrase his response: *We still believe we can change the world, and that is what we want to sense in a church, a passion to change the world for Jesus Christ.* What a powerful, challenging word that is! Grace Church, that is what I want us to be about—changing the world—from a fragmented, broken place into a place of life-sharing relationships, from a place that beats down to a place that builds up, from a place that takes to a place that gives – all to the glory of the One true God, who brings wholeness, who builds right relationships, and who gives without limit.

As you know, we have been seeking God's particular vision for Grace UMC's role in this great work of change. We know that we are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ, but what specific form will our contribution to the kingdom take? In order to answer these questions and clarify our path forward in the near term, we have conducted "listening sessions" over the past year. All of you were invited to take part, and many of you did. Thank you for your love of the Lord and of Grace UMC. In order to distill the input that we received I invited a group of individuals to join me in a "visioning team." Our goal is to take the input we have received, pray together as we reflect on the purpose of the Church and of Grace, specifically, and to come up with a clear statement of our purpose and vision.

I have been referring to this team as the "Dream Team". The name is intended whimsically to connote a group who brings the dreams of the many into one clear vision. (Dream Team is in no way to imply that this gathering of folks was in some way elite.) I asked folks who have years of experience at Grace and only a few months. I asked folks who have had leadership roles in the church and those who are just getting started. I have included staff members and non-staff members. My primary criterion for inclusion was that each of these be "active" members of Grace, i.e., they are engaged in the life of Grace Church in worship and beyond.

We have met three times and intend to have a vision statement completed before the Church Council meeting on September 15th, so that we may seek approval (if we can put a timeline on God's revelation of God's vision). We will then be utilizing every method we can to communicate that vision to everyone. If it is God's vision for us, it will capture our passion and participation, while it challenges us to accomplish things that can only be achieved if God is in them.

[This visioning team consists of: Kyle Ripley, Joyce Gresh, Bruce Philpott, Jennifer Bozard, Howard Parsons, Kim Harris, Curt Wisor, Marlene Hall, Jack Wilks, Cathy Condon, and Sally Watson. Rev. Katie Brock will join us this week, as she begins her appointment September 1. I have also invited Alex Medlin, a college student who has been worshipping and serving with us this summer to join the team.]

The above text from Acts 16 displays how sensitive Paul and his companions were to the Holy Spirit's leading of their mission. They had a clear vision and immediately set sail to fulfill that vision. And through believers like them, God changed the world. That is exactly what we seek for Grace Church: a clear vision from God and passionate believers setting sail to carry it out. Please pray for our team, offer your thoughts to them about where God is trying to steer us, and get ready for the exciting journey we will begin together.

I'll see you in church,

Pastor Dick



Prayer Concerns:

Please call the church office at 766-1621 or email at gumc@knology.net with the name of anyone you would like included on this list. We will also print their names in the bulletin.



SEPTEMBER

IN THE HOSPITAL RECENTLY

Jeanne Watson, Roper

SHUT-IN OR RECUPERATING AT HOME

Scott Broomall; Bob Burbage; Lois Knowles, Annie Litchfield, Shirley McKagen; Fran Pasterick; Barbara Rice, Mildred Roberts, Bill Smith; Frances Weeks

NURSING/RETIREMENT HOMES/REHAB

Gloria Beckley, Horizon Bay; Tommy Dawkins, Heartland; Lamar Derrick, The Palms; Anna Hoover, Ivory's Loving Care; Marge Hoskins, The Palmettos; Fred Hughes, Ashley River Plantation; Melanie Hughes, Midland Park Residential Center; Doris Mahon, Franke Home; Jean Seyle, Island Oaks Nursing Center; Jack Wilks, Sr., Ashley River Plantation

1	Skye Smith	18	Chuck Krecklow
2	Betty Eaton		Bill Reynolds
3	Tom Redding		Angela West
	Jane Lybrand		Melissa Lange
5	Darrell Knapp	19	Harlan Rice
	Alyce Houston		Aimee McDaniel
6	Dee Banks		Andrew Zinkon
	Howard Parsons	20	Laura Brown
	Trey Hiott	21	Kim Vaughan
8	June Williamson	22	Edna Bennett
	Jamie McLean	24	Don Kinne
	Scott Reynolds		Kathy Martin
9	Angie Everard	25	Martha Blackwelder
10	Janey Godwin		Libba Johnston
	Dale Smith		Ryan Garrison
11	Rick West	27	JeanWilliamson
12	Sandra Leigh	28	Helen Miller
	Vaughan	29	Annie Litchfield
13	David Stone III		Pastor Don Clendaniel
15	Dale Prosser		Joyce Gresh
	Tonya Pittman		Wrigley Lange
	Paige McCandless		
17	Henry Touchton		



ALTAR FLOWERS

September

- 4 In loving memory of her mother, Opal Bellavita
—by Nancy Bellavita
- 11 In loving memory of Jackie Rast
—by her family
- 18 In memory of Eloise Kinne
—by Don Kinne
- 25 In memory of her husband, Howard Quarry
—by Nesta Quarry

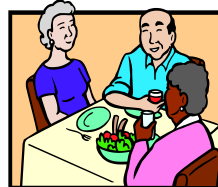
MUFFIN MINUTE

Don't forget to stop by the Celebration Center from 9:30 to 9:45 on Sundays for muffins and snacks, a cup of coffee, and some conversation. This is a great chance to meet and greet your fellow members. We'd love to see you and we especially welcome our visitors to join us.

ENQUIRERS CLASS

If you are a new member or a member who would like a "refresher" course on the ways of the United Methodist Church, please join us in the parlor during the Sunday School hour each Sunday.

Please let the church office (766-1621 ext. 3) know if we have missed your birthday.



OASIS
Tuesday, September 20
Noon

All seniors are invited to our covered dish luncheon. We always have lots of fun and it is a great opportunity to fellowship.



COMING UP

SEPTEMBER

EVENTS & MEETINGS

- 6 Joyful Memories Group — 12:00 p.m. (See page 6 for details.)
- 14 Out-to-Lunch Bunch — 12:00 p.m. (See this page for details.)
- 16 Senior Game Night — 6:30 p.m. (Celebration Ctr.) (See page 6 for details.)
- 20 OASIS — 12:00 noon (Celebration Ctr.) (See page 2 for details.)

COMMITTEE/GROUP MEETINGS

- 1 Worship Committee Mtg. — 6:30 p.m. (Room 4)
- 6 UMW Board Meeting — 6:30 p.m. (Room 4)
- 6 UMM Executive Committee Meeting — 7:00 p.m. (Parlor)
- 8 UMMen Unit Dinner & Meeting — 6:30 p.m. (Celebration Ctr.)
- 10 Dream Team Meeting — 9:00 a.m. (Room 4)
- 12 Communications Committee Mtg. — 6:30 p.m. (Parlor)
- 13 Stephen Ministry Leaders Meeting — 5:30 p.m. (Room 4)
- 13 Stephen Ministry Supervision — 6:30 p.m. (Room 4)
- 13 Finance Committee Meeting — 6:30 p.m. (Room 25)
- 13 Trustees Meeting — 6:30 p.m. (Parlor)
- 14 Chrismon Workshop — 10:00 a.m. (Room 4)
- 15 Education Committee Meeting — 5:45 p.m. (Room 4)
- 15 Church Council — 6:45 p.m. (Celebration Ctr.)
- 20 Witness Committee Meeting — 6:30 p.m. (Parlor)
- 27 Stephen Ministry Continuing Education — 6:30 p.m. (Room 4)
- 27 Stephen Ministry Supervision — 6:30 p.m. (Room 4)

BIBLE STUDIES

- Alpha, Mondays at 5:30 p.m., September 12 — November 14.
- Disciple 1, Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., September 12— May 21
- UMMen Fall Bible Study, Mondays at 6:30 p.m., October 3 — November 14

SUNDAY HELPERS

SEPTEMBER

USHERS

- 4 Bill West, Jack Baker, Tom Dukes, John Johnston, Don Neuroth, Howard Parsons, David Stone, Jr., Elwyn Woods
- 11 Wilfred Kearsse, R. D. Hall, Ryan Condon, John Lybrand, Hugh Knight, Jim Martin, Wyatt Nettles, Roy Phillips
- 18 Jack Baker, Tom Dukes, Elwyn Woods, John Johnston, Don Neuroth, Howard Parsons, David Stone, Jr., Bill West
- 25 R. D. Hall, Wilfred Kearsse, Ryan Condon, John Lybrand, Hugh Knight, Jim Martin, Wyatt Nettles, Roy Phillips

COUNTERS

- 4 Susan Colvin, Mary Nelle Floyd
- 11 Wayne Harris, Jack Wilks
- 18 Margie Marion, Susan Hoskins
- 25 Lee & Tommy Tamblyn, Rick Reeves

LITURGIST

Mary Sue Graham

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

We are looking for more members to be a part of our Out-to-Lunch Bunch to help visit our shut-ins. Join us for lunch with your church friends, choose a name of a shut-in from our list, and anytime during the month visit that person, either at their home or at their nursing facility. It is really a lot of fun and our shut-ins truly appreciate the time we take to bring a friendly smile and a warm hello to their day.

If you are unable to join us for lunch but would like to visit shut-ins, please call Joan Jones at 763-7275. She will provide you with a name.

Wednesday, September 14
12:00 noon

Michaelangelo's Kitchen
1749 Sam Rittenberg Boulevard

Please note date change.

Please call Priscilla Clement at 556-0879 or Joan Jones at 763-7275 for more information.





MUSIC NOTES

I love September! The church campus is filled with laughter, talking, giggling and yes, even some crying, as the Weekday School children return!! I love seeing those little heads walk by my office window!! September usually means that most of us get back into what we consider our normal routine. The music department is changing its normal routine just a bit. Starting September 7, here is our new routine:

Mondays, 5:30 p.m. Handbells, Sanctuary balcony
 Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. Praise Band, Sanctuary
 Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Praise Singers, Sanctuary
 Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. Children's Choir, Room 17
 Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

The Grace Dance Team will resume practice in January.

On September 7, our children will start working immediately on our Christmas program, "A Lamb's Tale". This is a heart-warming story about a young boy named Zeke and the discovery he makes while searching for his lost lamb, Snowflake. We would love for your children and grandchildren to be a part of this musical. We will also need youth and adult volunteers to help. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

We are looking forward to an exciting year as we kick off the fall season at Grace UMC. Please join us at one of our rehearsals and join in the fun as we praise our Lord!!

Singing for the Risen King,
 Kim Harris

DALENBURG MISSIONARIES TO VISIT GRACE

September 18

The Dalenburs are a missionary family that we have supported and who have been serving in Senegal, Africa. Jennifer Nates Dalenburg is the daughter of a former Grace pastor, Jim Nates. The Dalenburs will be with us to give us an update and testimony of their service during the Sunday School hour in the Celebration Center. We invite and encourage everyone to help us welcome them and hear their story!

HURRICANE TIME IN CHARLESTON

It's the time of the year when we anxiously track the hurricanes being spawned in the Atlantic to see if one will be heading our way. In recent years we have been very fortunate in the Charleston area and we lift up our thanks to the good Lord. As many of you remember, however, there was a time when tragedy did strike the South Carolina coast — in the form of Hurricane Hugo. As devastating as that was, it also seemed to bring out the very best in people.

The Category 4 hurricane struck Charleston on Thursday, September 21, 1989. There was no electricity, no air conditioning, no refrigeration, no water, no sanitary sewer, no transportation and no access to money. Everything was closed down. The roof of Grace's sanctuary had been damaged and was leaking; there was extensive water damage; glass was everywhere. (When Bill Parks, a Methodist preacher from England and guest speaker at a Grace revival, saw Charleston two-and-a-half weeks after Hugo struck, he said it reminded him of how London looked during World War II.)

Many Grace members had stayed to ride out the hurricane and few escaped damage to their homes and property. Yet, their concerns weren't just for themselves but for each other and for the church. Three days after Hugo hit, a worship service was held in the Fellowship Hall and was attended by about 75 or 80 people. They met in a circle. There was no sermon. Everyone was concerned about who they could help and how. The church arranged for a refrigerated 18-wheeler, loaded with ice, to be set up in the Grace parking lot. People of all income levels came. The church gave out 40,000 pounds of ice to hundreds of grateful people.

Although Charleston suffered a great deal of damage, McClellanville bore the brunt of the storm and recovery efforts there were chaotic. Two Grace members — Colonel Frank Thompson and Captain Jim Myrick — volunteered to go to McClellanville to organize and lead the relief efforts for the town. They brought order out of chaos and were a tremendous help to the community.

So lift up your prayers that we'll have no more Hugo's, and let's all do our part to keep alive that spirit of unity and cooperation that Hugo brought about.

Welcome!



It is our joy to welcome to Grace UMC our new Associate Minister: Youth and Young Adult Ministries, **The Reverend Katherine "Katie" Brock**. She comes to us from the upstate of South Carolina—Spartanburg, and is a recent graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC with a Master of Divinity with specialization in youth ministry. At Annual Conference in June this year Katie was commissioned as a Provisional Deacon in the United Methodist Church. Over the next couple of years, she will complete her work for ordination.

Katie has served in various youth ministry capacities at local churches and on the conference level and brings enthusiasm and demonstrated capabilities to our leadership team. Katie's work will focus primarily in the areas of youth and young adults, and she will share with me the ministerial leadership of Grace UMC.

On September 11, there will be a reception for Katie after the 11:00 a.m. Service of Worship in the Celebration Center. Let's all turn out for this celebration to welcome Katie aboard.

We thank God that Katie has come to us to serve Christ here at Grace. Please get to know her and let's give her a warm Charleston welcome.

ALL LADIES OF GRACE

It is back-to-circle time! The circles of Grace UMW usually do not meet during the summer and resume their monthly meetings in September. If you are not already a member of the UMW, now is a great time for you to attend one or more of the circle meetings and find out what you are missing. The time and place for each of the six circles is listed below and/or the contact phone number for each circle leader. You won't regret becoming a member of UMW, where our purpose is to develop creative, supportive fellowship and to expand the concepts of mission.

Ann Herbert Wednesday, September 14	Leader-Mary Sue Graham (345-8532) 7:00 p.m. Home of Joye Cancro 1615 Seignious Drive
Love Thursday, September 8	Leader-Suzy Wilks (766-1745) 7:00 p.m. Home of Shannon Pace 1792 Banbury Road
Faith Thursday, September 8	Leader-Jessie Bowdoin (571-1597) 10:30 a.m. Home of Sue Walton 2135 S. Dallerton Circle
Anita Way Wednesday, September 21	Co-Leaders-Betty Dyke (442-5733)/Lois Voyles (766-6302) 10:30 a.m. Sunflower Café 2366 Ashley River Road
Hope Tuesday, September 20	Leader-Darlene Stone (766-4683) 10:30 a.m. Room 4 at the church (may attend OASIS after meeting)
Spirit	Co-Leaders-Jennifer Bozard(224-6579)/ Laural McClean (224-4707)
TBA	TBA



UMW NEWS

I would like to challenge all UMW members as we resume our regular monthly circle meetings – invite and bring another lady to your circle meeting! We have added a new young women's circle this year, Spirit Circle! However, there are still many women of Grace who are not UMW members. Look around you on Sunday mornings or at other Grace activities for possibilities and let's all commit to increase our membership. You know how much belonging means to you so let's share the experience!

Grace UMW sponsored two young ladies to attend the Coastal Youth Christian Mission Event on August 13th at Bethany UMW in Summerville. It was an all-day event filled with music, fun, and fellowship with over 120 young ladies from Charleston, Marion, Orangeburg, and Walterboro districts. The youth embellished dresses and made bracelets that will be distributed to girls in Africa and Haiti. Each young lady that attended was asked to bring a health kit or a school kit that was blessed and will be mailed to needy children all over the world.

On September 18th, UMW is pleased to welcome to Grace the Dalenburgs, a missionary family that we have supported and who have been serving in Senegal, Africa. Jennifer Nates Dalenburg is the daughter of former Grace pastor, Jim Nates. The Dalenburgs will be with us to give us an update and testimony of their service during the Sunday School hour in the Celebration Center. We invite and encourage everyone to help us welcome them and hear their story!

Please note that the Charleston District Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 17, in Monck's Corner – exact church location to be announced. Anyone interested in going, call Mary Nelle Floyd at 607-1149 to carpool.

Watch the bulletins or website for dates and times for Chrismon workshops resuming September 14th.

UPCOMING DATES

- 9/6 UMW Executive Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Room 4
- 9/18 Charleston District Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Moncks Corner, SC
- 9/28 Crisis Ministries Family Center at 6:00 p.m. (Ann Herbert Circle)
- 10/4 UMW Executive Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Room 4
General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Celebration Center (Ann Herbert hosting)

UNITED METHODISM 101

The monthly feature "United Methodism 101 will return in the October issue of the Words of Grace..

UMMen FALL BIBLE STUDY

UMMen will start the fall Bible study on Monday, October 3, at 6:30p.m. for seven weeks through November 14. The study is on Nehemiah: A Servant Leader. The study will be held in the Joy Sunday School Room. For more info or sign-up please contact Chuck Heller (852-2725 or chuckheller@att.net).



SENIOR GAME NIGHT

Friday, September 16
6:30 pm

Seniors, if you like to play bridge, hearts, phase 10 or any other card games or have a fun board game, please bring them with you. Bring your favorite finger food or snack and drinks (tea, Coke, Diet Coke, Pepsi, etc.). We will meet the third Friday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Please call John Gailor at 819-9440 if you have any questions.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY

The Christian love and prayers of the congregation are extended to Fran Thompson on the death of her sister.

JOYFUL MEMORIES GROUP

The Joyful Memories Group will meet on Tuesday, September 6, at 12:00 noon at Easterby's on Ashley River Road. Please call Marilyn Shokes at 402-0251 for reservations and information.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Laural and Jamie McLean on the birth of a daughter, Hattie Margaret McLean, on July 25, 2011.

WALKING A PATH WITH GOD

Soon there may be a peaceful place on the grounds of Grace Church where you can go to pray and meditate as you walk a path with God.

Plans are underway for a prayer labyrinth here. A prayer labyrinth has one path, with many intricate turns, that leads to the center and then back to the original start.

In the Christian walk some see it as having three stages — the 'inward' journey, the center and the 'outward' journey. The theme of the 'inward' journey is letting go of things which hinder our wholeness and inner approach to God. The center of the labyrinth is a space of meditative prayer and peace. The theme of the 'outward' journey is relationship — with ourselves, with others and with all creation — seen in the light of our relationship with God.

Another way of experiencing the labyrinth is to look at it as a metaphor for life. The Christian life is often described as a journey or adventure. We progress down the path that is laid out by God, coming to turns and switchbacks that are often unexpected. The twists and turns take us in many directions but still we progress on the journey. The path continues to lead us to the center and to God's purpose for us. The labyrinth replicates a spiritual journey.

Each of us will walk the path in our own way, but for all of us it will be a time to block out the secular world and become closer to God.



An example of one style of a labyrinth.



An example of a diagram of a labyrinth.

Our labyrinth would be located in the courtyard on the Stoney Street side of the Sanctuary — a serene spot adorned with plants and trees. The area would be enhanced by the addition of other plants and flowers. This special place would be available for everyone in the community to come and commune with God.

The design of the proposed labyrinth will be reviewed at the September meeting of the Church Council. The design and construction are being undertaken as an Eagle Scout project by Life Scout Ben Niermann, a tenth grader at Bishop England High School. The project would be completed in the fall of this year. The project's total support would come from donations and volunteer help. Ben has already received an offer from a South Carolina company to donate the pavers, sand bedding and paver edge restraint.

You can help by volunteering your time and/or donating money. Further information will be provided in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

**GRACE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WORDS OF GRACE INFORMATION

In order to get the monthly *Words of Grace* newsletter to our members in a timely fashion, we need your information in the church office no later than 12:00 noon on the following dates:

September 15

October 15

SUNDAY BULLETIN INFORMATION

If you would like to place an item in the Sunday Bulletin, please submit it to the church office no later than 12:00 noon on the Tuesday prior to that Sunday. During weeks containing a holiday, it should be in the office by 12:00 noon on Monday prior to that Sunday.

We want to be sure your information gets out to our church families so please help us by meeting our deadlines. Submit all items for the *Words of Grace* and the Bulletin in writing (e-mail, typed, faxed or handwritten). Thank you.