



November 12, 2017 Newsletter

4900 Jackson St., Alexandria, LA 71303
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www.graceforalexandria.com

Pastoral Staff

- Pastor ..... Bill Lindner
Associate Pastor ..... Bryan Rhodes
Youth Minister ..... Robbie Dakel
Pastor Emeritus ..... Bob Vincent

The Mission of Grace Presbyterian Church is to extend the overwhelming grace of Jesus Christ -to all people - for the whole of life

Calendar of Some Grace Events

- Nov 12 ..... Prayer group here at church-6:30 PM
Nov 12 ..... Study of Colossians-6:30 PM
Eddie & Christy Ratliff's home, 21 Wilmore Rd., Boyce
Nov 13-17 ..... Operation Christmas Child Collection Week
Nov 15 ..... Regular Wednesday night activities
Nov 16 ..... Deadline to return filled OCC shoeboxes
Nov 16 ... Ladies Night Out: It's All Fun and Games-6:00 PM
Nov. 19 ..... Thanksgiving potluck after morning service
Nov 19 ..... Youth meeting at Vineyard-6:00 PM
Nov. 20-24 ..... GCS on Thanksgiving break
Nov 21 ..... Women's Bible study-9:30 AM
Narciada Shipley's home, 6220 Grand Oak Dr., Alex
Nov 22 ..... No Wednesday night activities

Grace Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- Sunday school for all ages ..... 9:00 AM
Sunday morning worship ..... 10:30 AM
Sunday night youth group (1st & 3rd Sundays) .... 6:00 PM
Sunday night prayer/intercession at church ..... 6:30 PM
Wednesday night activities ..... 5:45-7:30 PM
Ladies' Bible study (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) ..... 9:30 AM

Regular Wednesday Night Activities

The church family is invited to come out on Wednesday nights for food, fun and beneficial topics, 5:45-7:30.

Everyone: Fellowship Hall: Donation Dinner.. 5:45-6:30

After dinner activities (6:30-7:30)

- Adults: Sanctuary ..... Psalms with Bryan Rhodes
Kids: Children's church room ..... K-3rd grades
Room 2 ..... 4th-6th grades
Youth: Vineyard ..... 6:30 PM



Each Wednesday includes a "Dinner for Donation" at 5:45 PM Everyone is welcome

Regular Sunday Schedule

- 9:00 AM Sunday school for all ages
Book of Daniel Men's Study-GCS Library
Study of Ephesians-Ida St. house
Adult Sunday School-Fellowship Hall
10:00 AM Fellowship Time: coffee + treats
10:30 AM Morning Worship
6:00 PM Youth meeting 1st & 3rd Sundays -Vineyard
6:30 PM Sunday night School of Intercession-Sanctuary

For a more complete calendar, go to www.graceforalexandria.com/calendar

The flower arrangement this Sunday is placed in loving memory of Barbara Benson and Ruth Starkey and to highlight Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month (purple) and World Pancreatic Cancer Day (November 16). For information, or to support research and patient resources, visit https://www.pancan.org/.

Current & Upcoming Grace Teaching Series

During November, Pastor Bryan will continue teaching a Wednesday night series on the Psalms: the Psalms give us words to pray in every season of life. They are more than just words of God we read, they are words of God we take on our own lips and speak back to Him.



They reshape our perspective and they fuel our emotions and imaginations. They also point to Jesus, who Himself leads us in praying and singing these inspired compositions of lament and praise. 6:30, after supper in the sanctuary.



Daniel: Blooming Where the Father Plants You: In November, during the worship service, our pastors will have a preaching series through the Book of Daniel.

Here and There at Grace

Home Bible study of Colossians: On Sunday evenings at 6:30 PM, Eddie and Christy Ratliff are hosting a study of Colossians in their new house: 21 Wilmore Road, Boyce. Directions: from Hwy 28 at Vandenburg Drive (leading to Alexandria Airport), go west on Hwy 28 to Cooper Road (2.6 miles), turn right on Cooper Road to



Bayou Rapides Road (1.2 miles), turn left on Bayou Rapides Road to Wilmore Road (1.5 miles), turn left on Wilmore Road to first house on left (0.2 miles). For more information call Eddie: 451-7740.



Sunday night prayer will convene at the usual time - 6:30 PM - with a focus on intercession. We will meet in the prayer corner of the sanctuary.

### Thanksgiving Potluck: the annual Grace

Thanksgiving potluck will be November 19, 2017 at noon. Bring your favorite meat, veggie, salad, bread or dessert. We expect a crowd, so please bring enough to feed your family plus a hungry teenage boy. To be responsive to food allergies or food preferences, labels which list ingredients in your dish will be available in the kitchen. "What if today we were grateful for everything?" Charlie Brown



### Food for More than Thought

The Manna Meals Ministry is in full swing - the freezer has some delicious single-serving and family-sized entrees. If you would like to receive Manna Meals or know of a Grace family or individual that would benefit from this blessing, please contact Susan Huffman at 623-1640 or 704-3135. We are also taking monetary donations and donations of non-perishable food.



### Give Thanks

The Blessings Jar is a reminder to take time to appreciate God's answered prayers and express gratitude for all our blessings. Write your blessings or answered prayers on slips of paper and add them to the jar each week. All members are encouraged to participate. The Blessings Jar is in the lobby of the sanctuary.



### Grace Church Children's Ministry

Sunday School- Kids Connection: Pre-K thru 6 grade will meet in the children's church room. Parents please pick up your child right at the end of the Sunday school hour. Teacher for November: Karen Murphy.



Wednesday Night- Gospel Project for Kids: all children will meet together in the children's church

room for a brief introduction to the lesson and the lesson Bible video and then divide into their groups. Pre-K thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will meet in the children's church room. Parents please pick your child up from the children's church room after adult groups are through. 4-6 grades will meet in Room 2. Children in 4-6 grades will be dismissed into the fellowship hall to meet their parents. Teachers in November: Paul & Sandy Bryant (pre-K-3<sup>rd</sup>) and Susan Huffman (grades 4-6).

### Volunteer Opportunities

Koffee Krewe Helpers Needed: would you be available to give 45 minutes on one Sunday per month to make coffee for us? Grace will provide training and supplies. We want to add 2 people to the team, so please consider joining. See Pastor Bill or go to our website for more information.



Future need for Children's Ministry: Wednesday night: pre-k thru 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in December. Sunday school: pre-K - 6<sup>th</sup> grade "one-room" Sunday school in November. There will be about 10 children. If you have questions or want to volunteer contact Karen Murphy at 613-9630 or [murphykaren68@gmail.com](mailto:murphykaren68@gmail.com).



### Women

WELL Bible study: come to the well and find "living water, a spring of water welling up to eternal life!" Join us on the first and third Tuesday of each month for ladies' Bible study and prayer. Coffee and fellowship start at 9:30 AM, Bible study at 10, and prayer at 11. Afterwards, some of us go out for lunch together at 11:45. Come for any or all! Our next gathering will be on November 21 at Narciada Shipley's home, 6220 Grand Oak Dr., Alexandria. Feel free to invite a friend or two for a great morning and lunch.



"It's All Fun & Games" Ladies Night Out: the WELL Council is hosting a Ladies Fun Night on Thursday, November 16. We will have a barrel of fun laughing, playing games and snacking in the Vineyard from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. Feel free to bring your favorite munchies to share. Let's all get together and have a little fun!





## Spotlight on Bob and Sandy Vincent


**Pastor Emeritus Bob Vincent:** Bob has the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus in recognition of his 40 years of ministry here at Grace Church. He is now employed and active in ministry with the EPC Presbytery of Gulf South, working with EPC churches in LA, MS and TX. Because Bob works for our presbytery as one of the 2 Facilitators, as well pulpit supply when asked, he and Sandy are on the road frequently. They will be at Grace on November 19. Then between now and Christmas, they'll be in Junction City, AK; Mexia, TX, and then two Sundays in a row in Laredo again. Please keep praying for them.



### Grace Youth Events

 **Wednesday Nights:** every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 PM at Vineyard. In November and December we will alternate between two studies. John Hall will lead a study built upon Francis Chan's *Crazy Love* and Robbie will lead a study from the curriculum *What's Up*.

 **Sunday Nights:** We will meet on the **FIRST and THIRD SUNDAYS of the month** for small group discussions. Students will break into smaller groups and dig deeper into the lessons we are learning on Wednesday nights. This is a great time for students to connect with each other and the leaders on a deeper level.

 **Upcoming Events:** Planet Wisdom (February 23-24); Sr. High Mission Trip (June 2018); Jr. High Great Escape Summer Camp (July 2018)

### Community at Large Events and Updates

**Hurricane Relief Updates:** Grace Church has collected and distributed money for relief efforts with Hurricane Harvey. So far, that is: \$3,420.29. Evangelical Presbyterian Church altogether: As of Oct 19, over \$550,000 has been donated to relief efforts in areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. Working through our local churches in each area and connecting with national organizations like Samaritan's Purse, the EPC movement has been effective in ministry and relief on the ground in each area.



This is Collection Week for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Your filled shoeboxes need to be returned to the church office or to Sandy Bryant by Thursday, Nov 16 at the very latest. Thank YOU!



### Save the Dates

Annual Christmas Talent Show will be on



December 17, so you can start planning and rehearsing now! Details in future newsletters.

On Sunday, December 24, we will have a morning worship service and a Christmas Eve service that evening. Details will be forthcoming.



Love is in the air!  
Two back-to-back wedding showers in January 2018 in the Fellowship Hall

Jan 6: Megan Blackburn & Alex Hanna. Co-ed  
Jan 13: Katie Carter (groom BJ Elkins). Ladies only

**Matthew Smith & Indelible Grace:** we often sing their arrangements of classic hymn texts to modern melodies and musical settings in our Worship Service. Matthew and band will be performing here at Grace on Monday, January 22, at 7 PM and the following morning at the Grace School chapel. Watch for more info.



March 9-10, 2018 - IF:Acadiana in Lafayette, LA



(ladies conference). This is an annual two-day gathering in Austin, TX and simulcast all across the world in local homes, churches and communities, IF:Gathering is when we collectively come together to wrestle with essential questions of faith and encounter God in a way that allows us to be unleashed to give Him away. Look for specifics in the newsletter as the date draws nearer.

## *Grace Missions Update*

Hello Grace Family!!

Please accept my apologies on the tardiness of this update. It's been a busy time! Since the last update, I've:

- Done language learning training in Orlando and visited Mississippi Gulf Coast churches
- Completed my 3-week partnership development course (online fundraising training, basically)
- Visited churches and/or missions committees in Baton Rouge, Thibodaux, Memphis and Vicksburg
- Had telephone meetings with a church in Memphis and sent applications to others

This month features:

- Security training in Orlando (11/10 & 11/11)
- A fun day in Orlando - finally! So many visits there, all so full of meetings. Down time and relaxation are important and healthy for the long haul.
- One on one ministry visits with people to share what God is doing and ask them to partner with me. (My concentration thus far has been on churches.) Please pray for effective communication and partnerships. It's a very stretching and growing and good process. :)
- A visit back to my friends in Michigan at the end of the month (11/27 to 12/1). There are some things that I want them to know about my future, and there could be some really difficult conversations as a result of that. Please pray for that, that the Spirit would lead me through it all and that I will be able to make contact with all of my dear ones.

I am also extremely happy to report that I am currently sitting at 43% funded for my annual needs. Praise God!! There is also an additional set of 'one-time' needs that is funded at 160%. Yes. You read that correctly. Praise God with me for his goodness and provision? It's absolutely mind blowing. Please feel free to reach out to me if you ever want to talk or know more! I can be reached by email or phone. I'll still be in and out of Alex a lot, between all the various things, but know that I miss Sundays with my Grace Family.

Love y'all, Elizabeth Smith