

Fort Myers  
Central Campus  
2415 Grand Avenue  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
239-334-3160



News

Week of  
Nov. 24, 2013

Big

F A I T H

Builds Strength! This Sunday!

## **\*\*Sunday Special Celebrations 11/24\*\***

**Joining Grace Church:** (8:30 Service): Debbie Mathis  
(10:00 Service): Danielle Brannigan, Jeremy Rebstock, Joe Whitehead,  
Chris Bernardin, Selene Bautista, Chandler Williams,  
Gordon McGlashin, Linda McGlashin

**Being Baptized** (10:00 Service): Joe Whitehead

**Reaffirming their Baptisms** (10:00 Service):

Danielle Brannigan, Jeremy Rebstock, Ronald Gray, Chris Bernardin

**Charge Conference:** will be held today at 3:00pm at the Cape Coral Campus. At this meeting we will consider the annual business of Grace Church. Everyone is invited to attend.

# God's Vision for Grace Church:

To partner with God in transforming people from unbelievers to fully devoted disciples of Jesus to the glory of God!

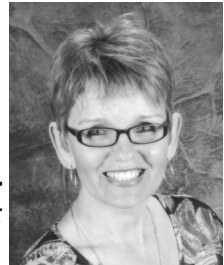
*How do we live out that vision?*

**REACH !    CONNECT !    FORM !    SEND !**

We seek to **REACH** people who need Jesus,  
**CONNECT** them to God and other Christ followers,  
**FORM** them to have a growing relationship with Jesus,  
and **SEND** them into the world to serve God and others!

## Message from Pastor Arlene:

My favorite topic is gratitude to God. I truly live by the belief that God is good, all the time. Life is not easy all the time, but in all circumstances, God is busily working out his goodness, grace, redemption, and restoration. I am the perfect example of God's ability to love and restore. **1 Chronicles 16:34** says: *O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting!*



So I guess it's not unusual that I would like the holiday of Thanksgiving. It's a day where we can set aside our constant complaining and wanting, our terminal restlessness, and rest in the goodness of God and what he has given us already. It's a whole day to look around at our abundant blessings: family, friends, church, food, clothing, love—instead of cataloguing all that we lack or longing for what we do not have. **Psalms 34:1** says: *I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth!*

I was thumbing through a Max Lucado book today and came to a story he told of being on a packed airplane flight where he got upgraded to first class. He was overcome with joy! But others who were on the flight who had paid for first class were complaining about the bad service on the flight! It made him think of how Jesus gives us blessings we do not deserve. That's the truth! Why don't you make a gratitude list this Thanksgiving, and as **1 Thessalonians 5:18** says: *in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus!* Happy Thanksgiving to all!

*Pastor Arlene Jackson* [ajackson@egracechurch.com](mailto:ajackson@egracechurch.com)

## YOU COUNT TO GOD AND TO US!

### Worship Attendance by Campus November 11-17, 2013!

Cape Coral Campus: 1,550

Grace Community Center: 281

Fort Myers Shores Campus: 200

Fort Myers Central Campus: 303

### Fort Myers Central Campus Giving:

General Fund: \$2,29.25

Missions: \$20.00



# All About WORSHIP

**Organist:** Dr. R. Thad Goodwin [btsdad@aol.com](mailto:btsdad@aol.com)

**Choir Leader:** Robin Ziel [robinleez@comcast.net](mailto:robinleez@comcast.net)

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Jedson Rodrigues [jrodrigues@egracechurch.com](mailto:jrodrigues@egracechurch.com)

**Band Leader:** Chris Jackson [coj1234@hotmail.com](mailto:coj1234@hotmail.com)

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING DAY  
AND THE FRIDAY AFTER!**

## **Worship Times:**

Sunday Traditional Service at 8:30am (hymns, organ, robes!)

Sunday Contemporary Service at 10:00am (a kickin' band & jeans!)

Wednesday Contemporary Service at 6:30pm (a bit of everything!)

**Hanging of "The Greens":** It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!  
Gather with your church family and decorate for the holidays on Saturday,  
11/30, at 8:00am to help make our church festive and inviting!

**Holy Communion** We share the "Lord's Supper" the first Sunday of every month, and the Wednesday evening following. We have an "open table" so ANYONE who needs Jesus in their life can participate. We use grape juice for those who can't safely drink alcohol.

**Thanksgiving "Wednesday" Dinner and Worship** — Worship Service at 6:30, Free Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings at 7:30, 12 Step Recovery Groups for men and women at 8pm. All are welcome!

**THIS WEEK: TESTIMONY OF CHRIS JACKSON ('da drummer!)**

**Ingathering of Food!** Be part of our food ministry that serves over 300 meals a week by bringing canned fruits, veggies, and nonperishables to the basket in the sanctuary.

**Mark Your Let's Connect Card Sunday or Wednesday and we will contact you with more info and how to get started!**



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Director of Children's Ministry:** Venia Joray [vjoray@egracechurch.com](mailto:vjoray@egracechurch.com)

**Middle & High School Leader:** Shannon Kania [Shannon.Kania@gmail.com](mailto:Shannon.Kania@gmail.com)

**Babies and Toddlers!** We love your little ones. Grace Church provides quality loving care during Sunday contemporary worship service and on Wednesday evenings!

**Grace Kidz!** Calling all Elementary School aged children for crafts, Bible learning, worship and games during Sunday a.m. contemporary worship & Wednesday evening worship.

**This Month's Teaching** We continue to learn about being **THANKFUL** while preparing for the **Christmas Pageant**.

**Supplies Needed:** Smooth stones (size of a quarter) and open pinecones. Thanks for helping collect supplies for the crafting fun of the children of GRACE KIDZ!

**Christmas Pageant** - DECEMBER 8th at 6 p.m. - come kick off your holiday season with fun for all AND birthday cake for Jesus!! Grace Kids will be singing!!

**Wednesday Nights:** We are sharing dinner in the classroom around a big table like at home. This is a great time for leaders to connect with kids, hear about their school experience and share like a family. Then, on to the fun stuff! Crafts, games, music and more fun!

**Pennies of Purpose:** In conjunction with Operation InAsMuch, the children are collecting pennies to 'transform' into quarters to help 'feed the machines' at Laundromats in March 2014! They have set some goals - \$300 raised and Ms. Venia gets a pie in the face - \$400 and Ms. Jami - \$500 and it's Mr. Ken .... \$600 and it's PASTOR ARLENE!!

**Youth Group!** Middle School and High School students gather to hang out on Wednesday night at 6:30 for dinner, interaction with the regular worship service, as well as bible study, prayer, games, and general fun in the Youth House. Must like music, Lock-ins, movies, road trips and food! The current study is entitled "**Life in 6 Words**" **GOD. OUR. SINS. PAYING. EVERYONE. LIFE.** Join the FUN!

**Lock In!** Join us on Saturday December 7th at 7pm for "Movie Night" & then our Lock-In.

**Youthful at Heart?** Do you have a flair for the dramatics or know how to herd cats? If so there may be a place for you in the youth department. We are looking to add a class for our up-coming middle school youth and are looking for additional youth workers. Please email [Shannon.Kania@gmail.com](mailto:Shannon.Kania@gmail.com)

# REACH MINISTRY



**Reach Leader: Chris Jackson** [coj1234@hotmail.com](mailto:coj1234@hotmail.com)  
**Thrift Store Leader: Judith Seright** [serightjudith@yahoo.com](mailto:serightjudith@yahoo.com)

## THRIFT STORE NEEDS BLANKETS AND WARM CLOTHING

**Volunteer at TURN AROUND!** Make connections with the neighborhood, and let them know all about our church! Join this crazy team of sorters, sellers, checkers and stockers. Lend an ear and a hand to our neighbors! Are you good at lifting, sorting, and stocking shelves, then contact Judy to work during the week. Email Judy and take a shift!

**Car Wash!** This Saturday, November 30th 10am to 1pm. Join us to bless our community with free car washes, hot dogs and drinks. Bring towels, hoses, buckets and a willing spirit!

**NEW Community Festival:** The Third Annual Community Festival (Block Party) takes place on Saturday, December 7 from 11am - 3pm here at the Central Campus of Grace Church. This is a free event to the community with free food, free kids games, free pictures with Santa, free live entertainment, free petting zoo, some local community partners and vendors, even a monster size piece of construction equipment. Teams are developing to help with set-up, arranging community partners, kid's games, food, publicity and promotion, cake walk, admission and more! We need your help. Contact Chris Jackson at 239 471-4001.



# CONNECT MINISTRY

**Connect Leader: Ed Horne** [dukeoakfan@comcast.net](mailto:dukeoakfan@comcast.net)

**Food, Glorious Food!** Every week the Kitchen Team serves over 350 meals ...with no budget to buy the food! All donations of food are appreciated. Some of the items we always need are as follows: coffee, lemonade mix, pancake mix, peanut butter, jelly, yellow rice, dishwashing soap, cereal, powdered coffee creamer, sugar and did I mention **COFFEE**. Donate any of these items or anything else you might have by dropping them in the "Food Basket" located outside the sanctuary door and don't forget to come and enjoy the good food!

## **CONNECT MINISTRY** continued...

**NEW Women of Faith Simulcast Event:** Friday, December 6th 7:30-10:30pm at Grace Community Center, 4151 Hancock Bridge Pkwy. Bring new meaning to your Christmas Season and celebrate the birth of Christ with Women of Faith. Join Sheila Walsh, Lisa Harper and Pastor Max Lucado for timeless messages that focus on the true meaning of Christmas alone with music from Francesca Battistelli. Cost is only \$5.00 for this great event. For more information mark your "Let's Connect" card or contact Kelly Duffy at 239 938-5219.

**NEW Movie Night!** Join us December 7th, 7pm for the movie "SilverBells". For some people, winning is everything, but Christmas spirit isn't found on a scoreboard. Competitive sportscaster Bruce Dalt wants his wife to win their neighborhood's Christmas decorating contest and his son, Jason, to be the star of his basketball team. But when Bruce scuffles with Jason's coach, he's "sentenced" to managing a Salvation Army kettle during the holidays. Will something as simple as ringing a bell transform his life?

**Hospitality Volunteers!** Are you friendly? Then you can help on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings at the Welcome Desk, as a greeter, or as an usher. You can serve in the parking lot and wear the cool orange day-glo vest! A great way to meet absolutely everyone! Email or see Ed!



# FORM MINISTRY

**Form Leader: Sharon Davis**

[sdavis@egracechurch.com](mailto:sdavis@egracechurch.com)

**Dive Deeper!** Each week on the Form wall there are copies of the sermon notes along with questions and thoughts to help you go deeper into the Sunday sermon. We call this "Dive Deeper" because it allows an opportunity to process what we have just heard in the sermon in a different and deeper way. Pick up a copy of these notes and see where God leads you, or join the 11:30 discussion group that meets in the Youth House. This informal group uses these notes and discusses together how the sermon applies to their lives. This is an open group so you can join at any time. Our current sermon series is "Big Faith" and this week we look at "Big Faith Builds Strength!".

**University of the Holy Spirit!** The Grace Church daily Bible reading and devotion plan where you are guaranteed to get a personal word from God every single day! This quarter's bookmarks are on the "Form" wall or contact Sharon Davis for more details.

**Walk to Emmaus!** The object of the Gulf Coast Walk to Emmaus is to inspire challenge and equip the body of Christ in Southwest Florida for Christian Action. This is a 3 day retreat. If you haven't been on this walk and would like to attend check the FORM wall for an application. Next walks are: Men, May 22-25, 2014 Women, May 29-June 1, 2014.



# SEND MINISTRY

Send Leader: Terry Rhodes

[trlpn@aol.com](mailto:trlpn@aol.com)

**Franklin Park Local Mission Partner**— Our Christmas Gift give away will soon be here and we still have children who have not been sponsored. Please pick up a tag from the table in the hall and buy the gift indicated, bring the unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 8th.

**Operation InAsMuch** — Our bucket money for the next several months will go toward **OIAM**, Operation InAsMuch, this mission project will take place March 1, 2014. The funds will be used for different service projects that day, like feed the machine to pay for people's laundry for the day.

## RECOVERY MEETINGS



**Men's Recovery Leader: Scott Thornton** [Scotthardythornton@yahoo.com](mailto:Scotthardythornton@yahoo.com)

**Women's Recovery Leader: Sarah McMillan** [smcmillan@egracechurch.com](mailto:smcmillan@egracechurch.com)

**Monday:** CA at 8:00pm

**Tuesday:** CA at 8:00pm

**Wednesday:** 12 Steps for Christians for Men at 8:00pm  
12 Steps for Christians for Women at 8:00pm

**Thursday:** AA at 7:00pm

**Friday:** AA at 8:00pm

**INTENSIVE 12 STEP STUDIES!** Women's 12 step study started Monday October 21st at 7:00pm. This is for any woman who has a hurt, habit, or hang-up they want to work through. Each person will work through all 12 steps over the next year. This group will be open for several weeks so check it out! For more information contact the group leader Rochelle Redmon at 240-3188.

# GRACE CHURCH...one church in *many* locations!

## CAPE CORAL CAMPUS

13 SE 21st Place  
Cape Coral, FL 33990  
239.574.7161

### Worship Times:

8:30AM - Traditional  
10:00AM - Contemporary  
11:30AM - Contemporary

## FORT MYERS CENTRAL CAMPUS

2415 Grand Avenue  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
239.334.3160

### Worship Times:

8:30AM - Traditional  
10:00AM - Contemporary  
(WED) 6:30PM - Contemporary

## FORT MYERS SHORES CAMPUS

14036 Matanzas Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33905  
239.694.2797

### Worship Times:

10:00AM - Contemporary  
11:30AM - Traditional

## GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER

4151 Hancock Bridge Pkwy  
North Fort Myers, FL 33903  
239.656.1320

### Worship Times:

10:00AM - Contemporary

## GCC THRIFT STORE

4151 Hancock Bridge Pkwy  
North Fort Myers, FL 33903  
239.656.0122

### Hours:

Tues-Sat: 10AM - 4PM  
Wednesdays: 10AM - 5:30PM

## FMC THRIFT STORE

2415 Grand Avenue  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
239.244.5712

### Hours:

Sat-Sun-Mon  
10AM - 3PM



# CROSS-CAMPUS Events & Activities

**MEN'S RETREAT 2014** - Save the date for February 7-9, 2014. Pastor Jorge and Pastor Wes invite men from every campus of Grace Church to join them on Fort Myers Beach to talk about "The Character of a Godly Man." Great teaching, great food, great music, great guys...worshipping a great God!

**Sleeping Mat Project:** Sunday, December 1st at 1PM in room #4 at the Cape Coral Campus is an opportunity for you to learn how to turn plastic bags into sleeping mats. These mats will be distributed to the homeless in Lee county. Bring a willing spirit, lots of plastic grocery bags, scissors or other cutting instrument and a size N (9mm) crochet hook. This event will end at 3pm.



**Mobile app  
available!**



**[www.egracechurch.com](http://www.egracechurch.com)**

