

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



Week of
Dec. 1, 2013

grace News
CHURCH



****Sunday Special Celebrations 12/1****

Joining Grace Church:
(10:00 Service): Craig Quinn

Being Baptized
(10:00 Service): Deaveon Brown & Miracle Marie King
Children of: Junior King and Shannette Chasten

Reaffirming their Baptisms
(10:00 Service): Craig Quinn, Felix Martinez III, Britny Mahoney

Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word—Psalm 103:20

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:

Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is the season of four weeks before Christmas Eve. Technically, it is the beginning of the Christian calendar, when we begin to wait expectantly to celebrate the coming of baby Jesus at Christmas. The term "Advent" in Latin means "arriving." We anticipate celebrating the arrival of our Savior Jesus over 2000 years ago. What a day that must have been!



In Greek, the word Advent is *parousia*, used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and our present day staying alert for his Second Coming.

We live "between the two Advents", and that is the place where Jesus leads us, saves us, calls us, helps us, comforts us, grows us, strengthens us. As we enter into this time of Jesus' arriving, both in the past and in the future, let us rely on him with Joy and remember how Good God is, all the time. I am with you in this journey. Come Lord Jesus!

Pastor Arlene Jackson ajackson@egracechurch.com

YOU COUNT TO GOD AND TO US!

Worship Attendance by Campus November 18-24, 2013!

Cape Coral Campus: 1,452

Grace Community Center: 266

Fort Myers Shores Campus: 194

Fort Myers Central Campus: 323

Fort Myers Central Campus Giving:

General Fund: \$2,782.95

Missions: \$25.00



All About WORSHIP

Organist: Dr. R. Thad Goodwin btscdad@aol.com

Choir Leader: Robin Ziel robinleez@comcast.net

Worship Leader: Pastor Jedson Rodrigues jrodrigues@egracechurch.com

Band Leader: Chris Jackson coj1234@hotmail.com

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!)

Christmas Service Times:

Blue Christmas, Sunday 12/22 @ 6pm: for those who are grieving someone during this season, this is a place to remember and gain hope.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 12/24 @ 7pm: Celebrate the birth of Christ, candlelight service with "Silent Night" sung around the live nativity.

Christmas Day, Wednesday 12/25 @ 4:30pm: Christmas dinner (free), then worship service at 6:30 to sing, share glory sightings, praise God!

****Pick up some invitations from the Welcome Desk or in the seats to share all the Christmas events with your family, friends, and others!**

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.

Wednesday Worship — Worship Service at 6:30, Free Dinner at 7:30, 12 Step Recovery Groups for men and women at 8pm. All are welcome! **This Week: How Do I Grow as a Christian?** ...continues...

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.



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Director of Children's Ministry: Venia Joray vjoray@egracechurch.com

Middle & High School Leader: Shannon Kania 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.

Youth House Wish List! Looking to clean out your old Xbox Games, we are hoping for E or T rated games to add to our collection. We also need additional Xbox controllers and battery packs. We are always in need of "Snack Food" for the teens, chips, pop corn, cookies, and drinks.

REACH MINISTRY



Reach Leader: Chris Jackson coj1234@hotmail.com
Thrift Store Leader: Judith Seright 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!

Community Festival: This Saturday December 7 is our Annual Community Festival and we will need your help. Volunteers, please show up at 8am to help set up. We will need volunteers all day long and for clean up at the end of the day. Also we are still in need of some cakes and cookies for our Cake Walk; please bring in some baked goods for donation to the Cake Walk. Come bless this amazing community with your service. You will also be blessed, we promise!



CONNECT MINISTRY

Connect Leader: Ed Horne 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!

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 & wear the cool orange day-glo vest! These are good opportunities to get connected! Join one of the teams, email or see Ed Horne!

CONNECT MINISTRY continued...

NEW Women of Faith Simulcast Event: This 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?

Visitation Team! Come join us to visit, call, email or write those who are new to our church. We try to contact each new visitor every week. Perhaps your heart leans towards those who are ill, shut-in, or in the hospital. This team visits those people as well. Email Ed or mark your "Let's Connect" card to be a part of this team!



FORM MINISTRY

Form Leader: Sharon Davis

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 advent sermon series is "A Thrill of Hope" and this week we look at "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus!".

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

Franklin Park Local Mission Partner— We will be providing Christmas presents for 56 children from ages 2months to 12 years. Please bring your donations to the Church by December 8th. Volunteers are need to help with distribution of these Toys. Set-up will be on Tuesday, December 17th and distributions days are Wednesday & Thursday the 18th and 19th from 8am to 11am. Mark your "Let's Connect" card or Contact Bill Guyn to help, 239 995-2199.

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

Women's Recovery Leader: Sarah McMillan 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: Today, 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

