

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



Week of  
Dec. 8, 2013

News

*a Thrill  
of Hope*

*Celebrating Advent Week 2 this Sunday!*  
*"O Come, O Come Emmanuel!"*



**Children's Christmas  
Pageant**

**Sunday  
6:00pm**

**All  
Welcome**

**Cake  
& Punch  
After**

# 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 second Sunday in Advent, which is the season of four weeks before Christmas Eve. We are all beginning to get into "Christmas mode." What does Christmas mode mean to you? For some people, it's the trudging mode that says "oh no, another Christmas without my loved one" and that makes you sad. For others, it's the grumbling mode that says, "I hate all the commercialism and consumerism!" For some the Christmas mode is resignation, resigning to spending more than you can afford or not being able to buy presents. Or you can get into "panic mode" where there's too much to do and not enough time. There are many "Christmas modes" that kick in when Christmas time rolls around, and many times we slide into them like old, comfortable shoes.



My prayer for you as we enter into this second week of Advent, is that your Christmas mode this year will be joyful. "Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel will come to you, O Israel" is a song of anticipation and hope, as the Jewish people anticipated the birth of a Savior hundreds of years in the future to rescue them from darkness. Centuries later, He came, and his name is Jesus. He came to bring a light in darkness. I pray you can rejoice in this amazing fact: God came to earth as a baby to rescue you from your old Christmas modes. Rejoice!

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

## YOU COUNT TO GOD AND TO US!

### Worship Attendance by Campus November 25-December 1, 2013!

Cape Coral Campus: 1,392

Grace Community Center: 282

Fort Myers Shores Campus: 185

Fort Myers Central Campus: 334

### Fort Myers Central Campus Giving:

General Fund: \$2,192.59

Missions: \$25.00



# All About WORSHIP

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

## 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: BAND NIGHT!**

**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](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 - TONIGHT!** 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](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!

**Community Festival:** Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Community Festival on Saturday! We are so grateful for all the volunteers and the guests who came to experience the love of Jesus Christ first hand. We are so blessed - in giving and receiving. To God be the Glory! After all, the local church is the hope of the world, and we are working as hard as we can to make a difference here. First our little corner of the world, then Ft. Myers and beyond. For with God, all things are possible! Again, thanks to everyone!



# 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 inside the sanctuary door and don't forget to come and enjoy the good food!

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

**Acts Of Grace theatre Troup!** Will be planning next years skits, plays, and general entertainment fun very soon. Is this group where you fit? No acting experience required. To be a part of this fun group e-mail Ed Horne or talk with any of those involved. Next planning meeting will be in early January. Watch for date and time!

**MEN'S CLUB!** Every man is welcome, every second Thursday at 6:30pm. Meet in the Dining Hall for dinner, prayer, projects, speakers, and general friendship with a few dozen of your new pals. Next meeting is this Thursday, December 12th.

**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!

**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! This is a great entry point and a way to meet absolutely everyone! E-mail or see Ed Horne!



# 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 advent sermon series is "A Thrill of Hope" and this week we look at "O Come O Come Emmanuel!".

**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

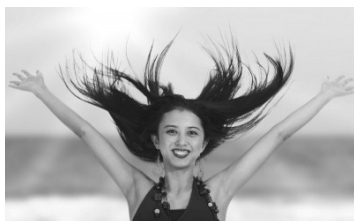
Send Leader: Terry Rhodes

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

**Franklin Park Local Mission Partner**— 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 needed 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](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!



**Mobile app  
available!**



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

