

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



Week of
Dec. 15, 2013

News

*a Thrill
of Hope*

Celebrating Advent Week 3 this Sunday!
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Blue Christmas

SUNDAY, DEC. 22, 6 PM

If you have suffered a loss that makes
the Christmas season difficult, please
join us for this special service.



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:

I have had the flu this past week, and there's nothing like the flu to force you to slow down. So, as I have sat around nursing my sore throat and fever, I have had time to meditate on the significance of God coming to earth as a baby that first Christmas morning.

It's truly miraculous. God himself came from his heaven as a human baby, born to ordinary people, and lived as a person, experiencing the full landscape of human life, all so he could free us from the "unholy trinity" of sin, self, and Satan through his horrifying death, burial, and resurrection. And it all began in a manger in Bethlehem, a baby born to a teenage girl, and a probably terrified young man (no midwife there, remember!) Such humble beginnings for such an important person.

Perhaps that's why God loves the humble and the poor, the downtrodden and the ordinary; because he came to us so nondescript. Other than some time spent in the temple at 12 years old, nothing at all is written about the life of Jesus until the last 3 years of his life. Maybe there was nothing to write, perhaps Jesus was just living an ordinary life, much as we do. Yet, Jesus was not ordinary at all. He was God in the flesh, and His birth started a revolution on earth that was foretold by prophets and the reverberations echo still today and forever.

I'm glad God loves the ordinary, that means you and me!

Pastor Arlene Jackson ajackson@egracechurch.com



YOU COUNT TO GOD AND TO US!

Worship Attendance by Campus December 2—8, 2013!

Cape Coral Campus: 1,416

Grace Community Center: 241

Fort Myers Shores Campus: 199

Fort Myers Central Campus: 337

Fort Myers Central Campus Giving:

General Fund: \$2,285.57

Missions: \$-0-



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: the last segment of "How To Grow as a Christian!"**

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 are studying the Nativity! Welcome Baby Jesus!

THANK YOU PARENTS & CHURCH FAMILY! What an amazing night with you all for the Christmas Pageant! Your dedication and participation were a blessing! We love learning with your children!

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!

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!

Reach Team needs all kind of help to show the love of Jesus to our neighbors! Help us out with our free community car wash Saturday, January 11 from 10am-1pm. Join us in providing free car washes and hot dogs for the community. Bring towels, hoses, buckets, and sponges, whatever you might have to make this event a blessing to us all!



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

New Years Eve Party! We will again be hosting the Grace Church New Years Eve Party on Tuesday, December 31st from 9pm –12 midnight. Celebrate the coming of the New Year with your friends and family here in the Parking Lot! DJ John will be here and there will be Karaoke lots of good food to share and of course the wild spoons game! Bring a covered dish to share and come join the fun!!!

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!

Free Movie Night! Join us on Saturday, January 11th at 7pm for our next Free Movie. We will be showing "*King's Faith*", a movie about a young man's journey to faith and his struggle to hold onto that faith.

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

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 Little Town of Bethlehem!*"

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 2 months to 12 years. 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. Any time you have to give to this project will bless you more than *humanly* possible! 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!



**Mobile app
available!**



www.egracechurch.com

