

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



Week of:  
December 7, 2014

grace  
CHURCH News

*the Christmas*  
that changed  
EVERYTHING!

Advent Sunday Series Week 2

GUESS WHO'S COMING  
to  
**Christmas**

Movie Night Saturday 7pm

## 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!

## Our Values at Grace Church:

1. We are unashamedly God centered!
2. We are passionately People-focused!
3. We are strategically Team Based!

## Our Strategy for Making Disciples at Grace Church:

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!

### A Message from Pastor Arlene:

God sent his son into the world, his name is Jesus. God sent his son not to condemn the world, but to save the world! Since I have been on vacation this past week in South Dakota visiting my son, his wife, and my beautiful grandchild, I have thought much about children, and the love I have for mine. When I consider the season of Advent, as we await again the birth of Jesus into our lives, I can only imagine the love that God had for Jesus, as he was born. Jesus was God's son, and in him God was "well pleased."



That makes it all the more astounding to me when I consider that each person who believes in Jesus as the Messiah of his/her life, becomes a child of God! Romans 8:15-16 reminds us, "So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him "Abba, Father." For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ, we are heirs of God's glory." Wow, so when we accept Jesus as our Savior, we become heirs of all that God gave Christ. We aren't bossed around by God or forced by God to do anything. Instead, we are given the Holy Spirit, the power, guidance and passion of the Holy Spirit, and we become connected to God through "blood." We have blood ties. We are children of the most high God. This is nothing to sneer at! This is no small stuff! We can begin to live like the children of God that we are, rather than the fearful slaves we once were; we are in a royal lineage.

God sent his son into the world two millennia ago, and now we remember what that means in Advent. God sent Jesus into the world not to condemn, but to save the world. Thank you Jesus! Will you join me in this journey of contemplating God's goodness in sending his Son this Advent season? I am with you in this journey.

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



# All About WORSHIP

**Pianist: Amy Carothers**

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

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

## **Worship Times:**

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

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

Monday Celebrate Recovery Service at 6:45pm (a different groove!)

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

**The Season of Advent!** Advent is the four Sundays plus Christmas Eve prior to the birth of Jesus. We change the colors on the altar at different seasons of the Christian Year. Advent is purple, symbolizing royalty. Jesus was the coming King of Kings, Lord of Lords! As Jesus came that first Christmas, let us wait expectantly for Jesus in our own lives today.

**HOLY COMMUNION THIS SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY** We share the Lord's Supper together on the first Sunday of the month and the following Wednesday. Anyone who desires the healing and help of Jesus Christ can come to this table.

## **All About Wednesday Worship!**

**This week: BAND NIGHT!** Each Wednesday you can expect something a little different. In fact, we are in the process of changing the format for Wednesday nights to have more variety of worship throughout the week. Stay tuned for the new format! **Worship at 6:30pm, Free community dinner at 7:30**, different studies afterwards throughout the year!

**If you are sick or go to the hospital, let the office know so your church can pray for you and you can be visited at your request!**



# 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.

**It Starts Today!** We will spend the next 4 weeks in a Wintery Wonderland, surrounded by all the snowflakes we can imagine! **UNFROZEN—KINGDOM OF FROZEN HEARTS**— This week we learn how the prophets foretold the birth of Jesus hundreds of years before that FIRST CHRISTMAS!!

***Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)*** "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned."

**Mark your Calendar:** Birthday party for Jesus will be during services Wednesday, December 17th 6:30pm. Plan for a glimpse of Children's Ministry "UNFROZEN" experience!

## 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!

**Middle School** This week is movie night for middle school, come join us!

**Senior High** youth are studying different people of the bible and will be using the following schedule: **This Week:** 12/10/14 Movie Night with Kimberly or Band Night in the Sanctuary, 12/17/14 Esther: What Time Is It? 12/24/14 Christmas Eve — Service in the sanctuary for all youth. 12/31/14 Timothy — I'm Just a Teenager, They'll Never Listen. 1/7/15 Discipleship — What Do You Mean I have to Have Discipline?

# 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 HOURS: FRIDAY—MONDAY 10AM—3PM**

**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!

**2014 Community Festival** Thank you to everyone for all the help on our 4th Annual Community Festival, as we continue to shine the love of Jesus on our community. This year, Edison Avenue. Next year ? The world! Thank you for your dedicated service on Saturday, December 6.



# CONNECT MINISTRY

**Connect Leader: Sharon Woods** [skaywoods63@gmail.com](mailto:skaywoods63@gmail.com)

**Food, Glorious Food!** Every week the Kitchen Team serves over 500 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, juice, 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 office and don't forget to come and enjoy the good food!

**Acts of Grace**—With the advent season comes a active role for our Acts of Grace ministry. If you are interested in participating in any skits or the manger scene during this season please meet today in room #2 after the 10am worship service.

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

**Hospitality Volunteers!** Are you friendly? That is all it takes to help for Sunday or Wednesday 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! Mark your "Let's Connect" card and we'll contact you!

**Men's Club**—This Thursday at 6:30pm is the Men's Club meeting. Join the group and enjoy a great dinner, a word from God in the form of devotions and good fellowship.

**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. Mark your "Let's Connect" card for more information about this team.



# FORM MINISTRY

**Form Leader: Sharon Davis**

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

**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: Men's: January 15-18. Women's: January 22-25, 2015.

**Men's Emmaus Reunion Group**—Our Men's Emmaus Reunion Group will be starting again in January. This group is for any man who has been on the Walk to Emmaus. They will be meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

**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! Bookmarks now available for October—December. Never done the "UHS"? Start with the Matthew 28 day challenge or the Acts 28 day challenge. Book marks are on the FORM wall!!!

**Prayer**— How is your prayer life? If we are honest, most of us would say it could use some work. Someone has said that when we work, "*we work*", but when we pray, *God* works. His strength is available to praying people. There are several very good books on prayer, including the Bible, to help you to begin a daily prayer life.

**Small Groups** — If you have been looking to join a small group, you will like this new format. It only takes getting together with two or three friends. All material is provided!! You can still start a new small group. Contact Sharon for more information .



# SEND MINISTRY

Send Leader: Terry Rhodes

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

**Franklin Park Elementary**— Save the date! We have spent months collecting for Franklin Park Christmas Gifts, now comes the FUN PART, distributing the gifts to the families. We will be setting up at Franklin Park on Wednesday, December 17th and distributing gifts on Thursday, December 18th. Mark your “Let’s Connect” card or see Bill Guyon to be a part of this exciting “giving back” opportunity.

**Global mission conference**—February 4-8, 2015. There are many opportunities to get involved now. If you are interested in being involved mark our “Let’s Connect” card, email Terry Rhodes or contact Kelly Duffy, [naplesladybutg@yahoo.com](mailto:naplesladybutg@yahoo.com).

## 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

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

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

**Monday Celebrate Recovery Worship Service and “small groups!” Lesson by Scott T.** If you have a hurt, a habit, or a hang-up that is hurting your relationship with God, with others, and with yourself, this is the perfect healing place for you. Dinner at 6:00, Worship at 6:45, and 12 step recovery groups at 8:00. Break every chain through the power of our mighty God!

# 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:

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

## 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:

Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon  
10AM - 3PM



## CROSS-CAMPUS Events & Activities

**Advent is upon us and there will be many opportunities to worship at all the campuses. Watch for dates and times as we enter the holy season!**

## YOU COUNT TO GOD AND TO US!

### Worship Attendance by Campus November 24—30, 2014!

Cape Coral Campus: 1,468

Fort Myers Shores Campus: 186

Grace Community Center: 232

Fort Myers Central Campus: 441

### Fort Myers Central Campus Giving:

General Fund: \$2,452.05

Missions: \$95.00



**Mobile app  
available!**



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

