

A manger filled with hay and a white cloth, set against a starry night sky. The manger is made of dark wood and stands on a rocky, uneven ground. The sky is dark with many small, bright stars. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*December 23, 2018*

*In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.*

Luke 1:26-27 (NLT)

### **What does it mean for us to carry the name "Christian?"**

#### **1. God has given me a new \_\_\_\_\_.**

*The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

Luke 1:28 (NIV)

#### **2. God has given me a new \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."*

Luke 1:29-33 (NIV)

*Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true."*

*And then the angel left her.*

Luke 1:38 (NLT)

*They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.*

Acts 1:14 (NLT)

# GRACE NEWS

***If you want more information or to volunteer with any of these opportunities, please make a note on the Let's Connect card.***

**What's up with the 9:41?** Why do the church bells chime at 9:41 every day? Why does church start at 9:41 on Sunday? Matthew 9:37-38 says 'Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." We are praying for laborers and we are praying that God would equip us to be harvesters! Set your phone alarm and join us in praying at 9:41 every day for our community, and the (941) area code. Use the prayer card available at the Info Desk to pray scripturally.

**Christmas Offering** – Please pray about giving your first and best gift to Jesus this season. A Special Christmas offering will be collected today.

**Christmas Eve Services** – Bring your family & friends for either contemporary, candle light service at 5:00 or 9:41 pm as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

**Year-end giving** – Thank you for your generosity! All gifts received at the church, given online, or postmarked by Monday, December 31, will be included on year-end contribution statements for 2018. The office will be open on December 31st from 9:00am – 1:45pm (Need to make the deposit at the bank by 2:00!). Beginning Monday, January 1, all gifts will be included on contribution statements at the end of 2019.

**Holiday office hours** – The church office will be closed until January 8th, 2019 with the exception of Dec. 31st 9:00 am – 1:45 pm.

**Samaritan's Purse** – If you are planning on going to help on January 3 – 5, please attend the informational meeting, on December 30th at 11:00 after the service. If you cannot attend the meeting, let the office know.

# LET'S CONNECT

PLEASE TEAR OUT AND DROP IN BOXES AS YOU EXIT

Date:     /     /      1st Time Visitor

How did you hear about Grace Church?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday:     /     /      Male    Female

I would like to meet with the pastor.

## MY DECISION TODAY

- I said **YES** for the first time, and became a follower of Jesus.
- I decided to **RENEW** my relationship with Jesus.

*We have resources to help you with your decision.*



# PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAY FOR: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Public Prayer List     For Pastors Only

I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT:

\_\_\_\_\_

## SMALL GROUPS

I want to join a small group.

## SMART GIVING

go to: [egracechurch.com/give](http://egracechurch.com/give)

-OR-

text any amount + "Sarasota" to:

**239.205.3123**

(like this: 100 Sarasota)

An effective and time-saving way to give your tithes and offerings without carrying cash or writing checks.



**A Hunger for Healing for Women** – January 16th, 6:30 – 8:00pm Join Pastor Patti on Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Learn how to apply the Twelve Steps to alleviate emotional pain and stress for practical spiritual growth in Christ. Indicate on your connect card or call the office to register.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Explore the Bible** – Sundays, 8:30am – 9:30am in the Gathering Place

**Pastor Bible study** – Tuesdays at 7:30 am, meets in the Gathering Place

**Fishing Club** – 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Gathering Place - Learn from a speaker and 'hook-up' with fellow fisherman. Dinner available for \$5.00.

**City Commit** – Men's group, Wednesday mornings 6:30am-8:00am in the conference room

**Prayer hour** – Wednesdays, noon – 1 pm in the Worship Center. Come join us in praying for our church, our neighborhoods, the 941, & the nations. Come if you are in need of prayer.

**Praise & Worship practice** – Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:30 in the Worship Center

**Sprout** - 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month - Food distribution by All Faiths Food Bank from 10:00 – 11:30.

**Community Clothing Connection** - Open the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month from 10:00 – 11:30 am. Most items are only \$1.00

**Grace on the Bay Kayaking** – 2nd Saturday of the month, leaving from Vamo Drive Park at 9:41am. Bring your own kayak or call the office and we will bring one for you!



[egracechurch.com/sarasota](http://egracechurch.com/sarasota)

Phone: 941.966.3306

email: [sarasota@egracechurch.com](mailto:sarasota@egracechurch.com)