

## **YOU BELONG HERE!**

YES, FINALLY ! You can mark your calendar for SUNDAY, MARCH 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 9:41 AM! The GCS Campus is inviting YOU to come, share and celebrate our "First" Sunday service as Grace Church Sarasota Campus. Be sure to join us at 9:41 am, as we start our with the Message Series entitled "The Empty Cross". Please come, BECAUSE YOU BELONG HERE! We are a **NEW CHURCH** at a **NEW TIME** with a **NEW EXPERIENCE**.

## **Why 941?**

Here's why 941? We are a church family reaching out to pray for those in the 941 area code and beyond and we do it at 9:41am every day. We are a **NEW CHURCH** at a **NEW TIME** with a **NEW EXPERIENCE**.

## **The Cross: A Moment Defined**

You know, we all have defining moments in our lives. Well, in the life of a church, there are defining moments, too. One just recently occurred on February 4<sup>th</sup> around 9:00 in the evening, a day before our first preview service, when our worship center's focal point was affixed to Grace Church Sarasota history. A simple old rusty, partially-painted 16-foot high, 10-foot wide galvanized metal cross.

Let's go back a couple of months, while going through the "Back 40", a cross was stumbled upon. Exposed to the elements over the past, who knows how many years and leaning up against rotted Christmas tree signs, decayed lumber and cluttered debris of days passed, this aged cross was just set along an out building like it had no meaning, for all to see as they passed. Shamefully, it was beaten down and brutally abandoned like used scrap metal, left to die. Sound familiar?

When found, many were brought out to look at it. Those checking it out all had the same idea...How awesome would this be put up in our worship center? There was no doubt this cross could help define our church. How great is our God, to not have let this symbol of true love be simply discarded? How cool is it that He left it for us to find and resurrect in this special place? Just saying.

Anyway, a few determined church planters reverently and unceremoniously carried this "Old, Rugged Cross" from the backyard up to the church, then into the worship center and after a little TLC, was ready to be raised and attached to our worship center wall. It should be known that while others held the cross in place, our Brother in Christ, John Vogel, was the one who permanently fastened the cross to the wall.

A moment defined.

## **Name the Osprey Couple**

Roughly two months ago, a pair of osprey started taking up residence in the parking lot light tower. Coincidence? How about a message from The Almighty telling us He knows something special is happening at our campus? So, let's give them names! Let's adopt this family into ours.

This is how...Just grab a ballot, choose a male and female name and write them down and name our feathered-church family members. If and when they have offspring, we will name them, too and welcome them into the Grace Church Family.



## **Men on A Mission**

This campus has been in revival mode for a while and in many different ways. One very noticeable area being revitalized is the campus landscaping. Grace Church has been blessed with two incredible workhorses. Phil Henry and Lyle Johnson have teamed up to clean up the campus grounds by removing, redesigning and replanting flowers, shrubs and trees to make this church a much more welcoming campus. This talented "Green Thumb Duo" have taken on quite a challenge and have shown us all how we can serve our Lord in so many ways.



The Holy Spirit works through us in various ways as was witnessed to us by Phil Henry himself. He says that someone his age should not be able to do this kind of work, but admits he was truly amazed he was able to do the job of digging out some of the shrubs and replanting them at the cottage and that it could only be done with the help of The Holy Spirit.! We all agreed. Phil is so awesome.

Just look around the campus buildings and you will see that God has blessed them and in return, we have all been blessed by their beautiful results. These guys really show us what the hands and feet can do.

## **Look How Far We've Come!**

What a crazy last twelve months, it has been at the Grace Church. A year ago, a sign was put up in the front yard reading "Coming Soon". Since then, people have constantly prayed for this church to reopen and three months into the new year, the GCS Campus buzzes with an excitement of what's to come. As volunteers remodel, repaint, replant and replan, in an all-out effort to "RESURRECT" our neighborhood's beacon of light, we are witnessing a true rebirth of faith right before our eyes.

Spearheading the way to our first Sunday service has been the Operational Team led by our trailblazing Pastor Patti Nemazie. The team has been laying out the foundation for our facilities and the spiritual direction of our church. And, God is so cool because He continually puts people in place to help do His work to get things ready. Whenever we need something or someone with a particular talent, He puts them right in our hands. The GCS Campus has seen a steady improvement and growth in teams, groups and facilities.

Creative Director Bill Grabowski has laid out the vision for the facilities and has quickly taken shape, aided by wife, Barb. As the GCS Campus has improved, so has the Reach and Connect Ministries. Soon-To-Be-Transplants from the Cape Campus, Susan and Jim Watson started and drive the Sprout Food Pantry Team that serves over 100 local families, which has cultivated another reach program called the Grace Church Breakfast Squad, serving fifty to sixty food pantry participants on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month.

While these Reach programs have grown, another one of our Fresh Expressions of church is "Grace-on-the-Bay Kayaking" is now in its infancy. The kayaking ministry offers those wanting to grow spiritually in a Christian experience enjoying God's natural creations while sharing in prayer, fellowship, scripture, discussion and worship.

How things have changed. How God's Kingdom is growing. So glad you're part of it.

**GET CONNECTED: Come to Starting Point after service & find out how!**

## GET CONNECTED @ GCS Campus

Find out how you can get involved in GCS Campus volunteering, group programs and church events. **Come...Get Connected!**

- **Sprout Food Pantry & Produce Team:** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, our GCS team partners with All Faiths Food Bank in providing food for those in need while connecting with them to build relationships. The AFFB food pantry opens @ 10:00am & goes until 11:30am-12:00pm.
- **Sprout Breakfast Team:** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, the GCS Breakfast Squad serves a free meal from 9:00am to 10:30am. We provide "Radical Hospitality" as we reach out, talk & build relationships with those who are unchurched, under-churched or just need to chat about their personal issues or spiritual journey & provide them with a path to the Lord.
- **Grace-on-the-Bay Kayak Ministry:** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month @ 9:41 am, feel free to join us on the water to enjoy God's creation in a spiritual & healthy way. *If you need a kayak, call the church office.*
- **Pastor Patti's Bible Study:** Every Tuesday @ 7:30am at Starbuck's Coffee at Pelican Plaza Shopping Center at 8394 South Tamiami Trail, SRQ, FL 34231.
- **Open Prayer & Meditation:** Every Wednesday the Worship Center is open to all for quiet prayer from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Starting April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- **Acts 2:42 Gathering:** Every Wednesday @ 6:00pm in the GCS Campus Gathering Place, please join us for dinner, prayer, fellowship & learning in a small group setting. Starting on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- **Scrapbooking & Crafting Ministry w/Christine:** Every Thursday from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Share in prayer, worship music & in crafting techniques at the Christine's Cottage Event Planning studio in the Children's Ministry Building.
- **Women's Group Step Study:** A Christ-centered, 12-step journey to awaken you to God's grace & opportunity to experience peaceful & productive living. Call the church office for date & time (To be scheduled).

### OTHER IMPORTANT EVENTS

- **DISCOVER GRACE:** If you are interested in learning more about GCS, Like, WHO we are; WHAT we believe; HOW to get connected; Join us on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am (right after services) in the Gathering Place.
- **BEACH BAPTISMS:** Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm, join us at Siesta Key Beach Sunset Pavilion for full submersion baptisms in the Gulf of Mexico. Want to be baptized? Call the church office at 941.966.3306, as soon as possible.
- **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES:** Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 9:41am.



**SUNDAY SERVICES START TIME: 9:41am**  
**OFFICE HOURS: Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 10am-3pm**

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# Grace News

## Come...Get Connected!



"A Place For You In The Grace Church Family"

## Grace Church Sarasota Campus

- A Multi-Campus United Methodist Church -

MARCH 2017