

# GraceNOTES

The official newsletter of Grace United Methodist Church in Arlington, Texas

January 2019

[www.Graceumcarlington.org](http://www.Graceumcarlington.org)

## Season of New Beginnings

# Epiphany

We are in the liturgical season of Epiphany. This is an amazing time in the Lord. What is Epiphany?

Maya Angelou defines (epiphany) this way. *“It probably has a million definitions. It’s the occurrence when the mind, the body, the heart, and the soul focus together and see an old thing in a*

*new way”*. The word “Epiphany”, when capitalized, is the name of the Christian church celebration of the three wise men visiting the Christ Child. The time when they bought their gold, incense and myrrh. Epiphany is observed on January 6 and some call this “Three Kings Day”. This season is best described as one of the most joyous feast days in the church. Many families gather in their homes to celebrate this feast with friends. In some parts of the world, when people gather, they ask God for his blessing on the dwelling and upon anyone who lives, works or visits there. As we usher in this New Year, I ask God to pour his blessings upon you. This is, the season of New Beginnings!



**Exciting news!!  
Please welcome Pastor Rezolia  
Johnson, interim appointment  
to our ministry staff!!**

### Grace UMC Media Team

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**Grace UMC Arlington** seeks to bring people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ by making disciples through our words and actions in cooperation with God’s Grace.

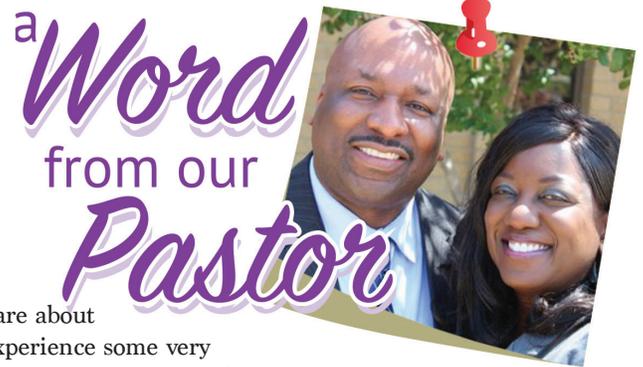
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*“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)

Happy New Year and welcome to what could be one of the best years of your life! I write these words because I am fully convinced that if we would receive and believe the words of Jesus quoted above from Matthew’s Gospel, we would truly experience “rest” for our souls. I am also convinced that many of us make life harder than it should be. I watch daily as people, sometimes myself included, anticipate and promote problems before they really exist. Life has its own set of problems so there is no need for us to make it tougher. Jesus said, **“Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”**

The word “simple” is defined as “Having only one or a few parts, easy to understand, not complicated.” I find that we complicate life, and yes even our relationships (It’s complicated) because of the way we perceive ourselves, perceive other people, and especially the way perceive Christ Jesus. Jesus said, **“I am gentle and lowly in heart...”** and, **“my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”** We also complicate life by holding onto the things that “yoke” us to the world. It’s impossible to think and act like the world and still expect God’s peace and blessings. I encourage you to release the yoke of this sinful world and humbly obey the words of Jesus to **“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me...”**



We are about to experience some very unique opportunities in the coming days so we must prepare by simplifying our lives and ministry to fully pursue God’s purpose in 2019. For this reason, I commend to you the theme for January’s Sermon Series; **Simplify!** We are looking forward to planning and executing the various missional, spiritual formation and educational projects in 2019 and want you to be a part of God’s ministry through your **prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.**

On a different but very special note, I want to take this opportunity to **welcome Pastor Rezolia Johnson** to the interim appointment to our ministry staff. I am looking forward to seeing what God is about to do as we continue fulfilling God’s purpose and plan for our church.

Rona and I say Happy New Year and pray that you continue to **grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Pastor Bates and Rona

January						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 New Year's Day!	2 Prayer in sanctuary 6:30	3	4	5 Overture to Music 10:30 am
6 Info Meeting after Sunday School	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	9 Worship Meeting 6:15 Bible Class 7 pm	10	11	12 College Prep 8-10 am Yoga 8 am
13 Communion Stewards Meeting 11:30 am	14 Finance 6:15 Strategic Planning 7 pm	15 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	16 Prayer in sanctuary 6:30 Worship mtg 6:15 Outreach 6:15 Bible Class 7 pm	17	18	19 Yoga 8 am Prayer 9 am Overture to Music 10:30 am
20	21 Martin Luther King Day	22 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	23 Worship Meeting 6:15 Bible Class 7 pm	24	25	26 Yoga 8 am Prayer 9 am UMW / UMM 10AM SPPRC 11AM
27 VBS Meeting 11:30 Leadership Recognition during service	28	29 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.	30 Worship Meeting 6:15 Bible Class 7 pm	31		

BEGINNER TO ADVANCED

# Yoga!

TAUGHT BY MINETTA BROOKS  
Certified Yoga Instructor

*Yoga is a journey in mindfulness, expressed in the breath and body in motion.*

EVERY SATURDAY STARTING JANUARY 12TH | 9 AM | \$5 PER CLASS

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Grace UMC of Arlington

JANUARY SERMON SERIES

# SIMPLIFY

SIMPLIFYING LIFE TO PURSUE GOD'S PURPOSE

MATTHEW 11:28-30

