

# GraceNOTES

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

August 2019

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

## SHARING THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS) TODAY?

Rev. Penny Stemley

I believe sharing the Gospel (good news) is a frightening and unfamiliar phenomenon for most Christians; irrelevant and intimidating from the world's perspective; and often secondary for those Christians who are confronted with competing interests. What can we do to address these things? Is Evangelism a lost cause? Absolutely not! It is needed now more than ever! God's command TO GO INTO ALL THE WORLD still stands. In fact, it was relevant for the Apostles, it was relevant in the 50's and 60's and it is still relevant today. PEOPLE NEED JESUS – they just don't know it. "The god of this age has blinded the minds of those who don't have faith so they couldn't see the light of the gospel that reveals Christ's glory." (2 Cor. 4:4- CEB) It's up to us to share the light of the gospel.



Sure, we live in a world where belief about God is confusing or in some cases non-existent. Consequently, sharing Christ is sporadic, optional or secondary to other issues of life. As a result, evangelism has taken a back seat. But there is hope for the cause of Christ! In order to bring the Gospel "front and center" (again), there are definite and deliberate steps we must take for it to become a way of life for every believer. We must become intentional!

In the July issue of Grace Notes we mentioned the book "Conversational Evangelism: Connecting with People to Share Jesus". If you recall, this book teaches a pre-evangelism methodology about first establishing a relationship with someone one prior to sharing the gospel. It is the WHAT of Evangelism. Most of us are in various relationship(s) but we are often unaware of the numerous opportunities available to share the gospel. THIS IS AN OPEN DOOR! According to the book, in order to share the gospel we must:

- Listen carefully to what they are saying, don't rehearse your response in your mind.
- Pay close attention to detail. (Has a door been opened to share the Gospel?)
- If you remember a time where you experienced something similar tell your story of how God brought you through. (This is a bridge to sharing the gospel.)

Don't try to share too much all at once, just yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit who will guide you every step of the way. (Cont'd on back)

### 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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**(Cont'd from front)** Another book we will study: "Unscripted – Sharing the Gospel as Life Happens" is the HOW of Evangelism. This book will be taught in all adult Sunday school classes. This will enable us to dig deeper, and obtain insight on how to share the Gospel. Here are a few excerpts from the book on becoming more effective in our witness:

- Learn to pray more effectively in relation to personal evangelism. Before going to the person, go to God. (Eph. 1:18)
- Most Christians feel that it is our job to bring the person to a place of conviction. That is not our role, that's the role of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:8).

- Pray for spiritual "alertness" to recognize those opportunities when they come. (John 16:13)
- Stay on message (The Gospel). This part of evangelism IS SCRIPTED. (Mark 16:15)
- Experience Spiritual Power. If you try to do this on your own... you will experience a spiritual meltdown." (Zachariah 4:6)

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you; and I pray God's blessing upon you - as we all commit to our mission of "... bringing people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ, by making disciples through our words and actions in cooperation with God's grace." **GOD BLESS.**\_\_

## Announcements

### Stand firm.

Sundays. We see the greeters and ushers in action, making sure you and our guests are welcomed into the sanctuary and have what's needed to participate in worship. Our musicians, worship leader and choir help center our souls before the worship service begins. The pastors' assistants lend hands, the media teens work together to ensure we have sound. The Sunday school teachers use the hour after worship to dig deeper into the Word and the hospitality team members come early to help us fellowship after worship.

There are a lot of ministries at Grace and to all of the ministry members, I say thank you and **stand firm**. I know it takes work to help bring people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ. And if you are

not currently serving in a ministry area, know that we have a place for you! The enemy does not like it when the church grows! His job is to discourage you, make you not want to participate in ministry. Because of that, I wanted to share the following scripture, "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. **For when I am weak, then I am strong**". - 2 Corinthians 12:10.

We are in the midst of sermons and bible studies on sharing the good news of the gospel. Sharing takes prayer and work. As we move into this new season of digging into evangelism, please keep Grace UMC, members and the mission field in your prayers.

*Thank you!*

Pamela Pinkerton-Whitley

*Save the Date!*

**Saturday, August 10th  
Yard Sale  
Back to School event**

**Welcome  
Media Team  
Members**

**Devin Stevenson  
and  
Jaylen Powe**

## August

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Mission u	3 Mission u
7 Mission u	8 East District Mission u One Day Event @ St. Andrews 9-2 pm	9 Praise Team 6 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	10 Prayer in sanctuary 6:30 pm Worship mtg 6:15 pm Outreach 6:15 pm Bible Class 7 pm	11	12	13 College Prep 8-10 am Back to School Event Yard Sale 7 am, School supplies 10-2 pm
14	15 Finance Mtg 6:15 pm Ad Council 7 pm	16 Praise Team 6 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	17 Worship mtg 6:15 pm Bible Class 7 pm	18	19	19 Prayer 9 am Budget/Planning Meeting 10 am
20 Acolyte / Ushers 11:30 am	21	22 Praise Team 6 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	23 Prayer in sanctuary 6:30 pm Worship mtg 6:15 pm Benevolent Committee 6:15 Outreach 6:15 pm Bible Class 7 pm	24	25	24 Prayer 9 am UMW / UMM 10am SPPRC 11am Compassionate Care 11:15
26 Information Meeting After Sunday School	27	28 Praise Team 6 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	29 Worship mtg 6:15 pm Bible Class 7 pm	30	31	31

