

GraceNOTES

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

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www.Graceumcarlington.org

STORY OF THE UNKNOWN

Destiny Lewis, Youth Journalist

Did You Know?

The celebration of Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, scholar, educator, and publisher. It became a month-long celebration in 1976. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. "We are not makers of history. We are made by history."-Martin Luther King JR. In African American history, we are taught about those that made a difference during the Civil Right such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King JR., and Malcolm X. But no one ever tells the stories of the unknown black historians not told in the history books.

"I just couldn't move. History had me glued to the seat."-Claudette Colvin. Everyone knows the story of Rosa Parks but did you know that Claudette Colvin was actually the first person to refuse to give up her seat and then arrested at the young age of 15. The reason we only hear about Rosa is because at this time many movements were going on. "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."-Dr. Mae Jemison. Phillis Wheatley was the first black author to be published at the age of 12 by releasing a poem she wrote, "In every human beast, God has implanted a principle, which we call Love of Freedom; it is impatient of oppression, and pants for deliverance." -Phillis Wheatley. These were spoken words from a piece she wrote.

"We all have dreams. In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.-Jesse Owens. Before Morgan Freeman and Denzel Washington was winning their first Oscars, Hattie McDaniel was the first black performer to win an Academy Award with her appearance in Gone with the Wind. John Mercer Langston became the first African American to become a lawyer and is the great-uncle of the poet Langston Hughes.

Patricia Bath invented the laser device to remove cataracts from the eyes. "You may shoot me with your words, you may cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, BUT STILL, LIKE AIR, I'LL RISE."-Maya Angelou. We know about Martin Luther King Jr story pretty well and the stories Maya Angelou told about her life. But did you know that King, was assassinated on Maya Angelou's 40th birthday and because they were friends she chose not to celebrate her birthday. Instead of celebrating, she sent flowers every year to Coretta Scott King up until Mrs. King passed in 2006. These were the unknown facts that we were not aware of "And if you don't know, well now you know"- Spoken Words from Biggie Smalls.



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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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Grace and Peace to you!

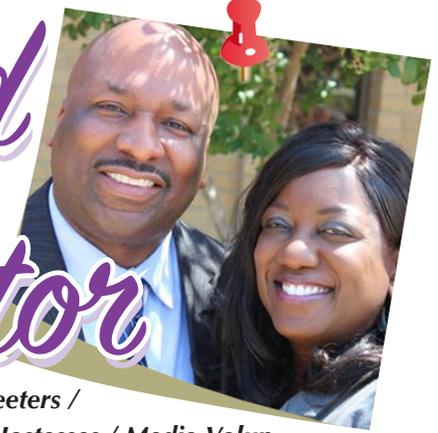
“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few...”

Matthew 9:37 (ESV)

The 9th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew contains some very poignant scenes that confirm the narrative of God’s love for humanity. In this chapter we see Jesus healing a paralytic, ministering to tax collectors and “sinners,” restoring a young girl to life, healing a woman who suffered from a blood disease for twelve years, healing two blind men and delivering a demon-oppressed man. The chapter begins to conclude with Jesus teaching, preaching and **“healing every disease and affliction.”** Before the conclusion of the chapter, Jesus makes a statement after observing and then, showing compassion on the crowds of people who were **“harassed and helpless.”** Realizing the desperate need to help humanity, Jesus says that the **“laborers are few.”**

At **Grace UMC Arlington**, the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers remain few. I appeal to you that as we sit in the middle of a lost and dying world filled with people who are “harassed and helpless,” God is waiting for us to answer the call that meets the needs of the people. There are so many ministry opportunities at Grace UMC Arlington that need additional volunteer laborers. Here are just a few;
Outreach Volunteers / Wednesday Night Children volunteers (teaching and food preparation) / Sunday School

a Word from our Pastor



Teachers / Ushers / Greeters / Hospitality Hosts and Hostesses / Media Volunteers / Choir Members / Homebound Ministries / Membership Care Volunteers.

The **Wednesday Night Bible Study for Children and Youth** is ready to extend our Christ-like influence beyond the walls of this congregation. The potential to reach the unreached is present in this Wednesday night ministry, but it needs you. You can make the difference in filling the ranks of the needed laborers. If everyone would pitch in, just think about how many more people we would be able to touch and impact with the good news of God’s kingdom.

Thank you in advance for helping with your presence, prayers, gifts of support and in volunteering in these vital areas.

On a connected note, the Strategic Planning Team is working diligently to refine and further develop our ministry focus through goals and objectives that will align each ministry to pursue the God-given purpose to **“bring people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ...by making disciples by our words and actions in cooperation with God’s grace.”** Expect to hear more about this team’s progress in the very near future.

With the deep love of God that flows from a grateful heart,

—Pastor Bates and Rona

Celebrating a life of Faith

