Welcome

We're glad you've joined us this morning! Feel free to check things out and determine whether we might be a good match for you. We're here to help at your invitation—you set the pace.

When you're ready for the next step, consider checking out one of the additional Sunday activities listed below. All are great ways to connect with others in our church family as you grow in your relationship with Jesus. Pick up a *Guide to Grace Church* for more details!

Sundays



Our church family gathers for worship through Bible study and song at 9:00 or 10:30 AM.



Children, students, and adults meet at 9:00 or 10:30 for small group study and conversations.



Groups gather in homes on scheduled Sunday evenings to build relationships together.

Information



Join us (ages 12 and up) as we work together to provide refreshment and encouragement to the cyclists in our community. Sign up online or get more details in the Main Hall today!



Come for the food, stay for the clay shooting, dominoes, and more at Tom Stephens' ranch just southeast of town—\$15 covers it all. Sign up online or at the church office.



Our senior high Jamaica team returned last weekend from their week of working together and building relationships in the Deaf Village. They share their story with us this morning.



4th–5th Grade Elevate: August 17 at 5:30 PM Grade Promotion Sunday: August 21 Family Fall Kick-off: August 24 at 6:00 PM Fall Studies: Beginning in September

Grace Church

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July 24, 2016



This morning, we are continuing our summer study of Jesus' parables. In this series, which runs through September 4, various members of our leadership team will teach selected passages highlighting the unique nature of these "teaching stories" told by the Savior. We're glad you're here!

News and Family Matters

Family Matters

Please pray for Alisha Watson as she grieves the passing of her father.

Upcoming Changes in Student Ministry

As part of our ongoing commitment to student discipleship, and in recognition of changes in the grade structure of many local schools, some areas of our ministry to children and students will be reorganized for the fall semester. Our current Junior High program will expand to become a Middle School ministry encompassing grades 6–8, and our existing 5th–6th grade program will transition downward to meet the needs of 4th–5th grade students. These changes will take effect on Sunday, August 21 when students are officially promoted to the next grade. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Fernberg, Caleb Levell, or George Castro at the church office.

Financial Update

General Fund	Last Year Sep. 1, 2014– June 30, 2015	This Year Sep. 1, 2015– June 30, 2016
Amount Received Amount Spent	1,363,384 1,325,188	1,330,918 1,362,340
Net Gain/(Loss)	38,196	(31,422)

This Week

Churchwide

Worship Services

Sunday, 9:00-10:15 AM or 10:30-11:45 AM

Bible Fellowships

Sunday, 9:00-10:15 AM or 10:30-11:45 AM

Adult Studies

Financial Peace University

Thursday, 6:30-8:00 PM in Room 208



Samson Society

Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM in the Library

<u>Women</u>

Better Together

Tuesday, 10:00–11:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in the Loft

What's It Like to Be Married to Me?

Thursday, 10:00–11:30 AM or 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 209

College & Career

Summer Late Night

Tuesday, 7:00-9:00 PM at 3715 Cedar Elm

Senior High

Open G.Y.M.

Monday, 6:00-8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

Senior High Youth

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

Student Life Camp

July 21-25

Junior High

Open G.Y.M.

Monday, 6:00-8:00 PM at the G.Y.M.

Junior High Youth

Wednesday, 6:30-8:00 PM

Student Life Camp

July 21-25

5th & 6th Grade

Camp Chaparral (4th-6th Grade)

July 24-27

Monday Funday

Monday, 6:00–8:00 PM in the Loft

Boys' Grub and Games

Thursday, 3:30-5:30 PM at 3409 Stirling

Girls' Popsicles and Pool Time

Thursday, 3:30–5:30 PM at 6 Sandpiper

Children

Camp Chaparral (4th-6th Grade)

July 24-27

This Morning

The Parable of Lazarus and Dives—Luke 16:19–31

Tom Rodgers, Lead Pastor

- I. Preliminary note on this parable: Although this parable is a little different than most in containing a personal name and providing detailed information about life after death, "the story can be understood as a parable that realistically portrays the fate of those who have rejected the Lord" (Walter L. Liefeld).
- **II.** The experiences of Dives and Lazarus on earth: The earthly lifestyles of a rich man and a destitute man are polar opposites—*Luke 16:19–21*.
 - **A.** Dives (based on the Latin translation of the Greek word for "rich") experienced a self-indulgent life in the lap of luxury—*Luke 16:19*.
 - **B.** Lazarus (based on the Hebrew word for "God helps") experienced a life of extreme suffering as a destitute, desperate cripple—*Luke 16:20–21*.
- **III.** The experiences of Dives and Lazarus after death: The experiences of Dives and Lazarus on earth are reversed after their deaths—Luke 16:22–23.
 - **A.** Lazarus was angelically transported to the lap of Father Abraham at the moment of his death—*Luke 16:22a*.
 - **B.** Dives found himself in Hades in deep pain after his death—Luke 16:22b–23.

This parable refers to "a flame", which assumes a fire. That experience is more directly related to the Lake of Fire, which is the eternal location after the White Throne Judgment for those who never received eternal life. Yet, there is no reference to the great White Throne Judgment here, because this parable doesn't provide the complete picture of God's eternal plan. In this parable, Jesus employs a few details about God's plan for life after death to make His point about the reversals that death brings.

- **IV.** The requests of Dives and Lazarus after their deaths: Although Lazarus made no requests in heaven, Dives made several requests to Father Abraham, each of which were denied—

 Luke 16:24–31.
 - **A.** Lazarus made no requests when he was in heaven in Abraham's lap.
 - **B.** Dives requested that Father Abraham commission Lazarus to provide momentary relief to his unrelenting anguish—*Luke 16:24*.
 - **C.** Abraham denied Dives' request, because the law of sowing and reaping had been satisfied and the chasm between Hades and heaven is impassable—*Luke 16:25–26*.
 - **D.** Dives requested that Abraham resuscitate Lazarus to warn his five living brothers of the imminent fate that awaited them—*Luke 16:27–28, 30.*
 - **E.** Abraham again denied Dives' request in light of the fact that the message about life after death would not be enhanced by a heavenly sign, because it is already contained in the Scriptures—*Luke 16:29, 31*.
