3rd Quarter Business Meeting Agenda
October 25, 2026

- Call to Order & Prayer – Charles Brown
- Benevolence Report – Charles Brown
- Membership Report – Hanna Fowler
- Financial Report – Melvin Rhodes
- Elder Report – Randy Scott
- Elder Motions
    a. Motion to add to MRRO designated fund
    b. Motion to approve new sign
    c. Motion for removal of inactive members
    d. Motion to approve Senior Pastor job description and salary range
- Discipleship Pastor Report – Joey Wood
- Worship Pastor Report – Matt MacLeod
- Senior Pastor Report – Jimmy Long
- Miscellaneous – Charles Brown
- Closing Prayer – Jimmy Long

Benevolence Ministry Report					
3rd Quarter 2026					
		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	YTD
Number of Benevolence Requests		14	9	14	37
Number of Contacts		41	47	43	131
Beginning Balance		$9,284	$5,262	$8,277	$9,284
Contributions:		$5,834	$13,015	$5,965	$24,814
Assistance Provided:					
	Rent/Hotels	$2,517	$2,708	$3,530	$8,755
	Utilities	$1,960	$142	$1,485	$3,587
	Transportation	$511	$763	$403	$1,677
	Food	$254	$100	$100	$454
	Other	$2,280	$1,081	$1,255	$4,616
	GCCO	$2,334	$5,206	$2,386	$9,926
	Total	$9,856	$10,000	$9,159	$29,015
Contributions minus expenses		-$4,022	$3,015	-$3,194	-$4,201
Ending balance of fund		$5,262	$8,277	$5,083	$5,083

2026 3rd Quarter Membership Report

Membership Changes in 3rd Quarter

Total Membership end of 2nd Quarter 2026		412
New Members	13	
Members Deceased		
Members Transferred		
Members Removed since last meeting	1	
Total Change for Quarter	12	
Total Membership end of 2nd Quarter		424

3rd Quarter Candidates for Membership

Profession of Faith	7
Statement of Faith	5
By Letter	1
Total	13

Total number of candidates for membership: 15

3rd Quarter Membership Breakdown

Active Members	278
Inactive Members	146
Total	424

GRACE FELLOWSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE			
	3rd Quarter Results		
	(Through September 30, 2026)		
	Budget	**Actual**	**Variance**
GIVING	$ 776,542	$ 780,350	$ 3,808
* SPECIAL GIFT		$ -	$ 310,151
GEORGIA BAPTIST FOUNDATION OFFERINGS		$ -	$ 28,737
NET OTHER INCOME		$ -	$ 1,810
TOTAL INCOME	$ 776,542	$ 780,350	$ 344,506
MISSIONS	$ 131,800	$ 123,046	$ (8,754)
GENERAL PERSONNEL	$ 392,358	$ 383,053	$ (9,305)
CHURCH GROWTH	$ 65,535	$ 52,450	$ (13,085)
OPERATIONS	$ 206,777	$ 177,154	$ (29,623)
TOTAL EXPENSES	$ 796,470	$ 735,703	$ (60,767)
COMMENTS			
* YTD Tithes/ Offerings without the gift are 101% of annual budget and are 3.8k above last year.			
YTD Tithes/ Offerings with the gift are 140% of annual budget and are 314k above last year.			
YTD Expenses are 92% of budget and $20K above last year spending.			
Avg Weekly Giving thru September without gift	$ 19,509		
Weekly Giving needed to achieve budget	$ 19,413		
ADJUSTED RESERVE FUNDS (ARF)	$ Amount	# of Months	
ARF as of 9/30/2026	$ 814,077	9.36	

Grace Fellowship Financial Update

3rd Quarter Results (Jan. 1st – Sept. 30th)

INCOME

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Giving	$776,542	$780,350	$3,808
Special Gift *		$0	$310,151
Georgia Baptist Foundation Offerings		$0	$28,737
Net Other Income		$0	$1,810
Total Income		**$0**	**$344,506**

Comments:

* YTD Tithes/Offerings without the gift are 101% of annual budget and 3.8K above last year
  YTD Tithes/Offerings with the gift are 140% of annual budget and 314K above last year
  Avg. Weekly Giving thru September without the gift - $19,509/Weekly Giving needed to achieve budget - $19,413

Grace Fellowship Financial Update

3rd Quarter Results (Jan. 1st – Sept. 30th)

EXPENSES

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Missions	$131,800	$123,046	$8,754
General Personnel	$392,358	$383,053	$9,305
Church Growth	$65,535	$52,450	$13,085
Operations	$206,777	$177,154	$29,623
Total Expenses	**$796,470**	**$735,703**	**$60,767**

Comments:

YTD Expenses are 92% of budget and $20k above last year spending

ADJUSTED RESERVE FUNDS (ARF)	$Amount	# of Months
ARF as of 9/30/2026	$814,077	9.36

Elder Council Quarterly Report

July–September 2026

Church family, thank you for your prayers, generosity, and faithful service. During July through September, the Elder Council's work centered on caring for our congregation, supporting ministry, and stewarding the resources entrusted to Grace Fellowship.

Prayer and personal care remained central to our meetings. We also discussed the important role of small groups and Sunday School in helping people grow in Scripture, build relationships, welcome newcomers, and care for one another.

On Sunday, September 20, 2026, Pastor Jimmy Long announced that we would be beginning succession planning. The Elders are following the Constitution and Bylaws for the calling of a new Senior Pastor. We began by enlisting the personnel team to develop a job description and salary package range. These have been approved by the Elder Council and will be presented to the church for approval in our Quarterly Business Meeting.

In worship, we began a trial of monthly communion, with a review planned for December. Missions also remained a priority. The council recommended additional missions funding for congregational consideration, and planning included an August celebration highlighting the Zambia, Wears Valley, and Dominican Republic mission trips.

Financial reports indicated that income and expenses were near budget, with an additional gift strengthening reserves. The Finance Team worked on improving interest earnings, reviewing investments, and updating financial policies and procedures to strengthen accountability. Planning for the 2027 budget is also underway.

We want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the diligent work of our Finance Team. They are committed to making sure that we are good stewards of that which is entrusted to us, and provide accurate and needed information to the Elders and church.

Facility work focused on practical ministry needs. The children's restroom project moved forward. Playground improvements remained under review, with attention to shade and resurfacing. The council also approved bringing a replacement church sign proposal to the congregation for consideration.

To prepare for upcoming leadership transitions on the council, the elders voted to begin the vetting process for candidates. Child and youth safety also remained a focus through training oversight and attention to supervision.

Please continue praying for wisdom, unity, and faithful leadership. Thank you for helping make Grace Fellowship a church where people are cared for, grow in faith, and serve together.

ELDER MOTIONS TO BE PRESENTED IN THE OCTOBER 25, 2026 QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Motion to Add to the MRRO Designated Fund

The Elder Council moves that $175,000 be moved from the General Fund to the MRRO (Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Obsolescence) Designated Fund in order to meet current and future needs.

Motion to Approve New Sign

The Elder Council asks the church to approve the replacement of the current sign at the church entrance on highway 44 with a new internally lighted sign with a digital board with a not-to-exceed price of $75,000. This price will include removal of the current sign, installation of the new sign, permitting, and the addition of a landscaped area around the sign to prevent lawnmower damage. This will provide the church greater visibility both day and night, along with a way to display upcoming events without the need for banners. The funds will come from the MRRO fund.

(details included in this packet)

Motion to Remove Inactive Members

The Elder Council moves that those on the Inactive Member roll previously shared with the church via email be removed due to long-term persistent inactivity and a lack of willingness to re-engage in active church membership or who are inactive and unreachable with the contact information we currently have.

Note: The Elder Council considers a person eligible to be removed from the church roll if they have not attended worship or small group in the last year.

(details included in this packet)

Motion to Approve Senior Pastor Job Description and Salary Range

The Elder Council moves the approval of the updated Senior Pastor Job Description and Salary Range submitted by the Personnel Team.

(details included in this packet)

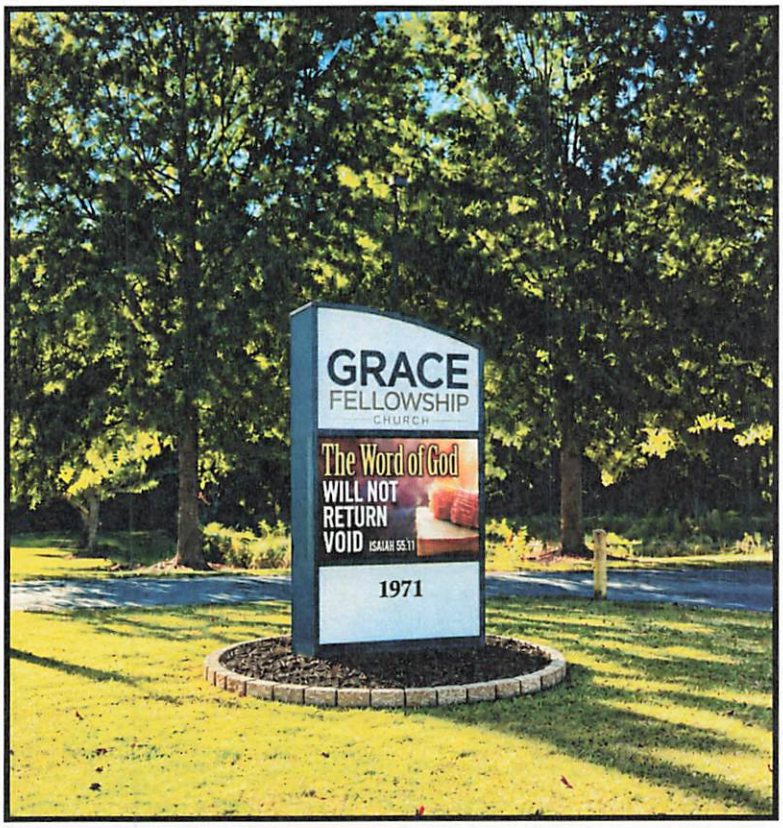
ACTION TO REPLACE THE CURRENT CHURCH SIGN ON HWY 44

Motion to be presented by the Elders:
The Elder Council asks the church to approve the replacement of the current sign at the church entrance on highway 44 with a new internally lighted sign with a digital board with a not-to-exceed price of $75,000. This price will include removal of the curuent sign, installation of the new sign, permitting, and the addition of a landscaped area around the sign to prevent lawnmower damage. This will provide the church greater visibility both day and night, along with a way to display upcoming events without the need for banners. The funds will come from the MRRO fund.

The new sign will enhance the visibility of the church, improve the aesthetics of our main entry, and allow us to promote key events taking place using the LED display.

The current sign stands 5' 8" tall. The new sign will be 11' 6" tall and 8' 8" wide, providing easier visibility.
The LED display will be full color with static images (not moving images), allowing us to promote key events and provide service times.
Mega Signs will work with the city to obtain the needed permits and to ensure the sign meets the parameters of the sign ordinance.

Below is a rendering of what the sign would look like in place of the current sign.



IMPORTANT ACTION REQUIRING CHURCH APPROVAL -- REMOVAL OF INACTIVE MEMBERS

Membership in a local church is both a privilege and a responsibility. When prospective members go through Beginning with Grace, both the privileges and responsibilities are mentioned. Among the responsibilities we specifically mention being faithful in attendance.

This is consistent with the teaching of Scripture, as well. In Hebrews 10:25, believers are admonished to regularly gather with their church family - "...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...".

If a person stops attending Grace Fellowship, they are moved to "Inactive" status. If they remain inactive for a period of at least one year, not attending either worship or small group, they may be removed from the membership roll either by their request or by a vote of the church in a business meeting.

This removal should only happen after the inactive member has been contacted (when contact information is available) and informed of the pending action. Additionally, the list of those who will be voted on is shared with the congregation. If you see someone on the list and know something about their status that should be considered, please let any of the Elders know. You may also contact the person yourself in an effort to get them to re-engage in the life of their church.

The following inactive members will be presented to the church in our Quarterly Business Meeting on Sunday, October 25. Please pray for them and come prepared to vote. If you have information that would change their status, please let an Elder know BEFORE the vote.

<u>INACTIVE MEMBERS RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL</u>

David Andre
Kyle Andrews
Stefanie Andrews
Nancy Bruce
Kameron Choum
Brian Crowe
Beth Crowe
Courtney Crowe
Mistella Curtis
David Dewitt
Breanne Dix
Michael Fahey
Donna Fahey
Leonard Gibson
Tonya Gibson
Aaron Gibson
Joel Grant
Karen Grant
Eddie Haley
Marie Harder
James Ingram
Katy Ingram
Scott Jackson
Kyra Jackson
Patrick Malone
Jelene Manders
Beronica Martinez
Donna McClellan
Kurt Ming
Sandra Ming
Linda Merritt
Brett Miller
Lori Miller
Lee Moore
Paula Moore
Stephen Morgan
Bonnie Murray
Timothy Nahalewski
B.J. Porche
William Shiver
Tyler Shiver
Jeannette Snider-Rerucha
Derrick Snider
Denise Stapp
Dale Thomas
William Thomas
Melvin Tuck
Charles Wellen
Akia Woodruff
Aleia Woodruff

ACTION TO APPROVE SENIOR PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION AND SALARY PACKAGE RANGE

With the beginning of succession planning, the Elder Council initiated the search for a new Senior Pastor to follow Pastor Jimmy by engaging the Personnel Team to develop an updated Senior Pastor Job Description and the salary package range for that position. This is in accordance with the church bylaws. They diligently completed their task and provided the two items to the Elders, and they were approved by the Elders.

Both the job description and salary package range are to be presented to the church for a vote. A motion will be presented by the Elders in our regular October Quarterly Business Meeting. The proposed job description is contained in your packet of information. If you desire a printed copy, please request one from the church office.

Senior Pastor Job Description - attached

Salary Range for the Senior Pastor - $101,790 to $125,500

Our next step will be to select a 7-member Search Team to begin the process. We are asking the church to prayerfully submit the names of members whom you believe would be good candidates to serve on this team. The Elders will use this list to put together the team.

Once formed, the Search Team will be presented before the church, so that we can pray over them and set them apart for this important task. The Elders will provide a written charge for their work and a list of characteristics of an ideal candidate. The team will be trained by a representative from the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, and begin their work in securing and evaluating resumes, meeting with candidates, praying, and finally presenting a candidate to the Elders and the church.

We ask that each of you make this search and the team that will be formed a matter of daily prayer.

Grace Fellowship

Greensboro, Georgia

Senior Pastor Position Description

Purpose

The Senior Pastor of Grace Fellowship serves as the primary teacher and leader of the church. The Senior Pastor proclaims the Word of God, serves as the primary teacher of Scripture for the congregation, articulates the church's vision and mission, and leads the staff and congregation in fulfilling that vision and mission.

The Senior Pastor oversees the corporate worship of the congregation, leads and supervises the staff, and helps ensure that the day-to-day ministries of the church are conducted well. He reports to and works directly with the Elder Council to maintain the health and faithfulness of the church. He should lead by example, cultivate a positive spirit throughout the church family, represent Christ and His church in the community, and lead with integrity, courage, and humility.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Leadership

- Study and proclaim the Word of God and serve as the primary teacher of Scripture for the congregation. Devote appropriate time to sermon preparation and to leading worship services.
- Serve as the spiritual head and leader of the church, being an under-shepherd of Jesus Christ who guides and protects the congregation.
- Oversee and direct the corporate worship of the congregation.
- Articulate the vision and mission of the congregation and lead the staff and congregation to fulfill this vision and mission.
- Serve as the inspirational leader of the Elder Council and disciple its members to develop their spiritual growth and development as governors and overseers of the church.
- Work directly with the Elder Council to create conditions in the congregation conducive to fulfilling the vision and mission of the church. (Bylaws Article II, Sect. I)
- Think creatively and strategically to address needs within the church and find ways to meet them in cooperation with staff and ministry leaders.
- Develop a plan to train and produce leaders for all areas of service within the church; recruit, equip, disciple, mentor, and encourage leaders and volunteers for the work of ministry.
- Maintain cooperative working relationships with the Georgia Baptist Convention, Southern Baptist Convention, and community churches so that Grace Fellowship works within the broader context of advancing the Kingdom of God.

Pastoral Care and Congregational Relationships

- Participate actively in pastoral duties, including ministry and evangelistic visitation, outreach, and hospital visitation as appropriate.
- Conduct weddings, funerals, baptisms, and other pastoral services as appropriate.
- Provide biblical counseling and spiritual direction in accordance with Grace Fellowship's theology and ministry philosophy, including premarital and crisis counseling, and make referrals when needed.
- Develop and support ministries that serve the spiritual and practical needs of the congregation and community.
- Build relationships with families, first-time guests, and new members in order to share the Gospel and help assimilate them into the church body.
- Maintain excellent communication with the congregation, staff, ministry leaders, and Elder Council.

Administration

- Oversee and supervise the church staff and the operations of the church office in accordance with the Personnel Policy.
- Assess the effectiveness of all strategies, programming, and activities in implementing and achieving Grace Fellowship's vision and mission, and make recommendations to the Elder Council for needed changes.
- Meet regularly with staff and ministry leaders to pray, discuss upcoming plans, opportunities, challenges, solutions, and the effective use of resources.
- Provide input and guidance to ministry teams upon request; coach and advise leaders as they implement ministry goals.
- Work with the Elder Council and appropriate leaders in planning and stewarding ministry resources, including annual budget needs and expenditures.

Relationships

- Successfully nurture and develop relationships with the Elder Council and deacons.
- Mentor church members and leaders, including those preparing for or serving in ministry roles.
- Connect intentionally with the church family and the surrounding community so that the Gospel can be faithfully shared.

Ministry Competence and Accountability

- Demonstrate strong written, verbal, organizational, and interpersonal skills, along with a friendly demeanor and a strong work ethic.
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively within a team-based ministry environment.
- Affirm Grace Fellowship's Statement of Belief and abide by the church Constitution, Bylaws, and personnel policies.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries and comply with all applicable church safety and screening requirements.

Qualifications

Spiritual Life and Character

- Model the qualifications of an elder found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Peter 5:1-4.
- Demonstrate a mature and growing relationship with Jesus Christ, evidenced by prayer, study of God's Word, and faithful Christian conduct.
- Demonstrate biblical character in relationships and conflict, following the principles of Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 18:15-17, and Ephesians 4:25-32.
- A faithful steward with financial integrity.
- Demonstrate faithfulness in family life, if married, or celibacy, if single; manage his household well; and place the needs of others above his own, following the example of Christ in Philippians 2:5-11.
- Lead with humility, gentleness, peacefulness, self-control, sobriety, a good reputation, and a love for what is good.
- Possess an approved ordination certificate.

Additional Note

The Senior Pastor must agree with and uphold Grace Fellowship's Statement of Belief, Constitution, and Bylaws.

Discipleship Report

The third quarter of 2026 was an encouraging season for discipleship ministry. Much of what took place this quarter was the result of groundwork that had been laid throughout the whole year through leader development, mission preparation, and investment in small groups. One of the most encouraging metrics from this quarter was identifying approximately 194 unique individuals actively connected to discipleship groups and small groups across Grace Fellowship.

Small Group Ministry

Small Groups continue to be one of the healthiest areas of discipleship ministry. We currently have 23 active groups meeting in a variety of settings and formats.

Following the Impact Discipleship Summit earlier this year, the Bells launched a new group in Madison, helping extend discipleship opportunities beyond our immediate church campus. Throughout the year we have also continued meeting regularly with leaders for prayer, encouragement, and support.

During September, I completed a thorough review of group rosters and participation records in an effort to get a clearer picture of engagement across our ministry. Through that process, we identified roughly 194 unique individuals connected to small groups or discipleship environments. We are continuing to identify potential apprentices, future leaders, and opportunities for additional groups as the ministry grows.

One especially encouraging development has been the continued growth of off-campus groups, including a group currently meeting in a local Bank of America conference room. It's exciting to see discipleship taking place wherever people are gathering.

Leadership Development

Developing leaders continues to be one of our highest priorities.

Throughout the year, effort has been given to identifying future leaders in Small Groups, Children's Ministry, and Youth Ministry. Healthy discipleship requires healthy leaders, and the majority of the work happens behind the scenes through conversations, mentoring, encouragement, and creating opportunities for people to step into greater responsibility.

We were also excited to begin onboarding the Burger family as future leaders of a Sunday morning small group. In addition, planning continues for the Together 2027 Small Group Leader Gathering, which we hope will be a meaningful opportunity to encourage and equip those serving in leadership.

Wednesday Night Discipleship

Wednesday nights continue to be one of our strongest indicators of discipleship engagement.

In February, Wednesday attendance averaged around 60 people. By the third quarter, attendance had grown considerably. July averaged approximately 78 attendees, September averaged over 75, and August reached a high attendance of 95 people. Compared to the attendance numbers we have from 2025, this represents significant growth and demonstrates increasing engagement in midweek discipleship opportunities.

During May, participants completed the No Sweat Evangelism training course. The training served both as discipleship development and as preparation for members of our Zambia mission team. It provided practical tools for sharing the gospel and helped build confidence in personal evangelism.

Children and Family Discipleship

Early in the year, five new volunteers were recruited to serve in our children's ministries, helping our Sunday and Wednesday ministry teams.

A great deal of time was also spent preparing materials for ZamJam in Zambia. Curriculum and crafts had to be adapted to fit the unique needs of the mission trip while remaining practical for transportation overseas.

Another major focus was the launch of VBX: Emerald Crossing. Rather than following a traditional week-long VBS format, we experimented with a weekly Wednesday evening model connected to Water Wednesdays. Family nights, games, bounce houses, meals, and fellowship opportunities created a fun environment for both children and adults while providing additional avenues for outreach.

After returning from Zambia, I also taught a Beginning with Grace class for several older children as they explored church membership and deeper involvement in the life of the church.

Missions and Outreach

A significant amount of this year's ministry energy was directed toward preparation for the Zambia mission trip.

Beginning in January, planning involved everything from curriculum development and mission training to fundraising, travel logistics, and preparing supplies. Alongside Nancy Long, we organized ZamJam materials that would be used to minister to hundreds of children each day. One of the ongoing challenges was figuring out how to get all of the necessary supplies packed into a limited number of checked bags while staying under airline weight restrictions.

An online mission training course was also developed to help better prepare future mission team members both practically and spiritually.

As summer approached, preparation intensified with organizing crafts, ordering team shirts, gathering supplies, and finalizing travel details. By August, our team was able to travel to Zambia and serve alongside Global Samaritans in ministry opportunities that impacted both children and adults.

Following our return, we held a Mission Spotlight service that allowed the congregation to hear stories from the trip and celebrate what God had done.

Seasonal Ministry Highlights

March was largely spent preparing for Journey Beyond the Cross. Volunteers, students, and ministry leaders worked to build props, assemble costumes, organize activities, and prepare for the event. One of the most encouraging aspects was the participation of our teenagers. They were engaged, dependable, and genuinely invested in making the event successful.

June brought the start of VBX along with several fellowship opportunities that strengthened relationships within the church and created natural connections with guests from the community.

Ministry Story

One of the most encouraging stories this quarter involves a man named Joseph.

After the death of his father, Joseph began asking deeper spiritual questions. Because he works in an emergency room, attending Sunday morning services consistently can be difficult. Earlier this quarter, however, he chose to attend a Wednesday night service, marking the first time he had stepped foot in a church since childhood.

Since then, he has brought both his teenage son and college-aged son with him. Watching Joseph has been a powerful reminder that discipleship often starts by simply creating welcoming places where people can belong while they search for truth.

Please continue praying for Joseph and his family as they continue their spiritual journey.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the next season of ministry, our focus will include:

- Continuing to identify and develop small group leaders.
- Improving engagement tracking.
- Expanding discipleship opportunities both on and off campus.
- Continuing preparations for the Together 2027 Small Group Leader Gathering.

- Investing in leadership development across all ministry areas.

This quarter was encouraging on many fronts. New groups were launched, leaders were developed, mission teams were sent, children and students were engaged, and participation in discipleship ministries continued to grow.

Most importantly, people are taking steps forward in their faith in discipleship, relationships, service opportunities, missions, and regular involvement in the life of the church.

We are grateful for God's faithfulness and look forward to what He will continue to do through the discipleship ministries of Grace Fellowship.

Joey Wood
Discipleship Pastor

Worship/Community Pastor: 3rd Quarter Ministry Report

July–September 2026

Our worship gatherings throughout the third quarter continued to follow along with our study in I Samuel and included such themes as: set our hearts on the Lord, lean into faith over fear, see God's victory, God's presence and protection, seek the Lord, and wait on God. We did step away from the series over the July 4th weekend as Jimmy shared a message on Heritage and Legacy. Our worship that morning included several older praise songs, recognition of some of our serve teams, and together we had an opportunity to thank the Lord for His faithfulness throughout Grace's ministry.

Several special elements were incorporated into our worship gatherings during the quarter. August began with communion, the commissioning of our second Zambia team, and a reading of Psalm 23 by our VBX kids. In September, we began incorporating communion as a monthly part of our worship and we will be evaluating that shortly as leadership to consider it as a part of our monthly worship as we plan for next year. September also included our annual lake baptism service with seven candidates, a baby dedication with four families participating, and a guest message from Steven Brondyke Jr. while Jimmy was away in the Dominican Republic.

Our missions emphasis continued throughout the quarter as well with spotlights featuring Kickin' for the Kingdom and Fellowship of Christian Athletes which included representatives from both Greene and Putnam Counties. On August 26, we hosted our Missions Night, celebrating God's work through our Go Teams during the year. A visit to the Penfield Christian Home took place allowing for an opportunity to sit with the director and tour both the men's and women's facilities. It was encouraging to hear about the ministry's impact and better understand Grace's partnership with them through the years. In addition to the going, praying, financial support, and collections for missions, work is underway to develop a formal missions policy, with plans to follow that work with a more detailed missions handbook to guide various processes for the missions team, partnerships, and our go teams.

Monthly worship newsletters continued to be put together and distributed throughout the quarter. Ongoing ministry responsibilities included worship theme development and service planning for our I Samuel series, supporting student music on Wednesday evenings, preparing and launching a small group for couples and parents, continued work on the street sign project, and preparations for our Advent worship series are under way.

Overall attendance for the 3rd quarter was up slightly from the 2nd quarter, but slightly down from last year. Our highest attended week was 242 and our lowest was 189 with an overall average of 207.

As we move into the final quarter of the year, worship planning will remain focused on the conclusion of our I Samuel study and then quickly shift into Advent. Also on the upcoming to do

list is budgeting, 2027 worship planning, as well as continued development of the missions policy and other ministry projects.

Senior Pastor Quarterly Report

Grace Fellowship | August–October 2026

Church Family,

It is my privilege to serve alongside you as we seek to fulfill our mission of glorifying God by bringing people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. From the close of a busy summer to the opportunities of fall, I am grateful for your faithful service, your prayers, and your commitment to the work God has given us.

Growing Together in Christ

VBX was a fun, Christ-centered time for our children. I am grateful for the leadership of Lisa Cronic and Cassidy Callaway and for the many adult volunteers who gave their time and energy. Our men's ministry also helped prepare meals during VBX. When you see those who served, be sure to let them know how much you appreciate them.

Our Wednesday night ministries are back in full swing, with the addition of a dedicated Middle School ministry and a new small group focusing on marriage and family. If you haven't been a part of Wednesday nights, come and check it out. These gatherings provide opportunities for our church family to grow in God's Word and encourage one another.

On September 13, we baptized eight people and gathered with our church family and guests for a covered-dish meal and sweet fellowship. It was an encouragement to hear their testimonies and see their joy as they came up from the water. What a privilege to celebrate these steps of faith together!

Gathering and Scattering for Missions

Churches are called to gather, but they are also called to scatter, and I am grateful to lead a church that takes missions seriously. This year's mission efforts included two teams to Zambia, one to the Dominican Republic, and one to Wears Valley Ranch. We also helped support summer ministry in Europe, particularly in Slovakia.

On August 26, we celebrated our mission teams and heard reports of their work, including slides and videos. It was a great time of celebration, and I thank you for your support. Our *Kickin' for the Kingdom* missions fundraiser on September 19, also reflected the hard work and commitment of many people in our church. Thank you to those who give, pray, prepare, and serve so that others may hear the message of Jesus.

Shepherding and Caring for Our Church Family

Alongside preaching each Sunday, I continue to lead a Sunday morning co-ed small group and a Wednesday evening men's small group. With the start of the school year, I have also been going to Greene County Elementary School on Monday afternoons to pray with and for the teachers.

The work of shepherding also includes maintaining contact with our sick and homebound, supporting our ministry teams, working with the elders, and leading our staff. In all of these responsibilities, my desire is to help keep our work consistent with our mission.

I am especially grateful for the compassion our church family has shown to those walking through grief. Our hope in Christ does not mean we do not grieve. It means we can come alongside one another with love, prayer, and faithful care. Thank you for the ways you continue to do that.

Looking Ahead Together

As succession planning begins, please pray for wisdom, unity, and God's direction for our church. We anticipate sharing further information at the October 25 Quarterly Business Meeting, subject to elder approval, along with an opportunity for the congregation to recommend people for a Senior Pastor Search Team. The desire is to prepare that team well, provide training through the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, and pray over them as a church.

Candy Quest is planned for October 25. Cassidy Callaway and her team are working hard to prepare. Nancy and I will be joining in, and I encourage you to participate as you are able. This is an opportunity to share both the love and the message of Jesus with our neighbors.

We are scheduled to observe the Lord's Supper on November 1. On November 15, we invited Murray Tilles of Light of Messiah Ministries to join us. Plans include teaching and questions during the Small Group hour for participating classes, preaching in the morning service, and a *Jesus in Hanukkah* service at 5:00 p.m. A love offering is planned to support that ministry. This should be an informative and encouraging time.

Thank you for your faithful support and your commitment to serving the Lord through Grace Fellowship. It is an honor to labor alongside you. As we look ahead, let's continue to pray, care for one another, and take the opportunities God gives us to bring people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jimmy

Children's Ministry Director Report

Cassidy Callaway

JULY

In July, VBX continued. The K-5th grade kids enjoyed the slip n slide and water games each Wednesday evening after a lesson on Psalm 23 and time to memorize it. By the end of July, about half the class had memorized the whole chapter and will recite it on stage the beginning of next month. To celebrate the end of VBX and the end of summer, we had a foam party for the kids.

Kids@Grace does not meet for the month of July. Kids Cove attendance averaged 15.25 and Wednesday night VBX averaged 22.8.

AUGUST

The VBX kids kicked off the worship service on 8/2 by reciting Psalm 23 on stage, which they worked hard to memorize all summer.

We announced the Candy Quest date- October 25th and will begin planning for that.

Kids@Grace resumed after its July break. Wednesday night children's ministry will resume normal scheduling in September, with the addition of a middle school class.

Kids Cove attendance averaged 15.4 and Kids@Grace averaged 12.7.

SEPTEMBER

In September, planning for Candy Quest began as well as advertising for it. Budget planning for 2027 also began. I met with our discipleship team on the 3rd and with the child safety team on the 21st.

Kids Cove attendance averaged 18.3, Kids@Grace averaged 14.5, and Wednesday night KidzLife averaged 17.8.

LISA/WEDNESDAY

July, August, and September have been exciting months in the children's program on Wednesday nights. In July we finished VBX and the kids memorized Psalm 23. In August we began our third year using KidzLife curriculum. We currently have two classes and nursery on Wednesday evenings. I invite each of you to continue to pray for more volunteers to step up and serve on Wednesday nights. As our program continues to grow, we will need more people. God bless you as you serve God's people. Ps. 127:3